RCMP
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

GAZETTE

SERVING THE POLICE COMMUNITY SINCE 1939

2014 MARCOM GOLD AWARD WINNER

VOL.77, NO. 1, 2015

BUILT ON TRUST
POLICE PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

POLICING ABROAD
RCMP LIAISON OFFICERS FILL KEY ROLE P. 7

CHILD SEX TOURISM
COLLABORATION LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION P. 16

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM TEACHES ESSENTIAL POLICE SKILLS P. 10

ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS
KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESPONDERS P. 28

RCMP-GRC.GC.CA

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

GAZETTE
Serving the police community since 1939
Vol. 77, No. 1, 2015
A Royal Canadian Mounted Police Publication

COVER SECTION

7 Liaison officers increase RCMP reach abroad
10 Capacity building enhances foreign agencies' skills
11 Specialized teams in Haiti provide consistent approach to development
12 Panel Discussion: What role does cultural awareness play in policing abroad?
14 Q&A with author Terry Gould, who wrote a book about Canadian civilian police trainers
16 Collaboration key to sex tourism prosecution
18 Police and social services work together to help most vulnerable
20 Australian liaison officers provide vital operational links
22 Canadian police join unique international partnerships
24 Multi-agency info sharing stops fraud scheme

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editorial message
5 News Notes
25 Just the Facts: graffiti
26 Ask an Expert: Ret. Sgt. Jeff Quail explains visual distortions under stress
27 RCMP conditioning program gets results
28 Police considerations in active shooter events
30 On the Leading Edge
32 Analyzing the forensics of firearms

RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS

To some, posting Canadian police officers in other countries might seem like an inefficient use of resources. Why send well-trained officers away when criminal activity persists in our own backyard?

But the reality is, it's highly effective. The more partnerships police foster, the better able they are to curb criminal activity both at home and abroad.

Take, for example, Deidre Seiden's cover story about the key role that RCMP liaison officers (LOs) play overseas. This recently expanded team of police officers may well be Canada's premiere problem solvers. Posted around the world, LOs work alongside their policing counterparts in other countries to support investigations with Canadian elements and investigations right here in Canada. To succeed, LOs need to make the right connections and build trust.

UN/MINUSTAH

This kind of work takes patience and involves give and take. Sigrid Forberg writes about the RCMP's international capacity-building program, an initiative that supports partner agencies that have a need for training or equipment. Helping other agencies get the tools and skills they require pays off for everyone.

Putting the right people in the right place is equally important. As part of a new specialized skills approach, Norwegian and Canadian police officers, including the RCMP, are training officers in Haiti on how to handle domestic violence and sexual assault cases against women and children. This concentrated approach is showing such impressive results that more specialized teams are now being developed.

We also look at which skills and attributes are desirable for police officers who are considering overseas work. Solid investigational skills are a must-have, but strong interpersonal abilities are needed for partnerships to thrive.

Good collaboration can make or break a case. Sgt. Ron Bieg of the Vancouver Police Department describes how reaching out to international agencies and experts helped secure key evidence that led to the first successful prosecution under Canada's child sex tourism legislation. It's the kind of outreach that separates the good investigators from the great.

Our cover section also includes a Q&A with journalist Terry Gould about his well-researched book on the work of Canadian civilian police trainers, and a contribution from the Salvation Army, an organization that relies on its trusted relationships with police to help vulnerable communities around the globe.

When police partnerships are nurtured, in Canada and abroad, outstanding things can happen. ■

Katherine Aldred
gazette@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

MARCOM AWARD WINNER

Gazette magazine has been named a Gold winner of the 2014 MarCom Awards in the category of Magazine/Government for its issue on finding solutions to real-world problems (Vol. 75, No. 4, 2013).

MarCom Awards is an international competition that recognizes exceptional achievement by communications professionals for excellence in quality, creativity and resourcefulness. As a Gold Award recipient, *Gazette* magazine was judged to have exceeded the industry standards for excellence in the 2014 competition. ■

GAZETTE

PUBLISHER: Karyn Curtis

EDITOR: Katherine Aldred

WRITERS: Sigrid Forberg and Deidre Seiden

WEB PUBLISHER: Richard Vieira

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Lisa McDonald-Bourg

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND CIRCULATION: Sandra Levett

TRANSLATION: RCMP Translation Services

PRINTING: St. Joseph Communications

The *Gazette* (ISSN 1196-6513) is published in English and French by the National Communication Services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Ottawa. The views expressed in any material published in the magazine or in its online version are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Cover design and contents are copyrighted and no part of this publication may be reproduced without written consent.
Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement 40064068. The *Gazette* is published four (4) times a year and is issued free of charge on a limited basis to accredited police forces and agencies within the criminal justice system. Personal subscriptions are not available.

The *Gazette* welcomes contributions, letters, articles and comments in either official language. We reserve the right to edit for length, content and clarity.
© 2015 RCMP.

HOW TO REACH US:

RCMP *Gazette*
73 Leikin Drive,
M8 Building, 1st Floor, Room 801
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2
CANADA

Phone: 613-843-4570
E-mail: gazette@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Internet: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/gazette

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE RCMP

Visit our website:
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/rcmpgrc

Follow us on Twitter:
@rcmpgrcpolice #rcmpgazette

Watch us on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/rcmpgrcpolice

Subscribe to RSS updates:
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/rss/index-eng.htm

ON THE COVER:
Insp. Michel Martin, retired from the Sûreté du Québec, and a Haitian National Police officer, discuss the ideal location for a traffic checkpoint near Croix-des-Bouquets, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, while a member of the Jordanian Formed Police Unit looks on. Photo: UN/MINUSTAH

DRUNK SUIT HELPS EDUCATE ABOUT IMPAIRED DRIVING

By Sigrid Forberg

Last fall, the RCMP teamed up with a Saskatoon, Sask., Ford dealership to demonstrate the effects of impaired driving.

Ford Motors, with the help of a German engineering company, developed a "drunk suit" that imitates the effects of alcohol on the body with goggles, weights, braces, a neck collar and noise-cancelling headphones. The suit was sent to different dealerships across North America for media events to help increase the awareness of alcohol's impairing effects.

"Ford is very committed to safety — you just want to be a part of an initiative like that," says Colin Anderson, from Merlin Ford Lincoln. "I've got kids and they're going to be driving soon and I want them and their friends to be aware of how important it is not to drink and drive."

A Ford representative reached out to the RCMP detachment in Saskatoon to see if they could send a member to the dealership to run field sobriety tests on participants wearing the suit. Cst. Elmer Russell, a member of the traffic services team, immediately saw the benefit in participating.

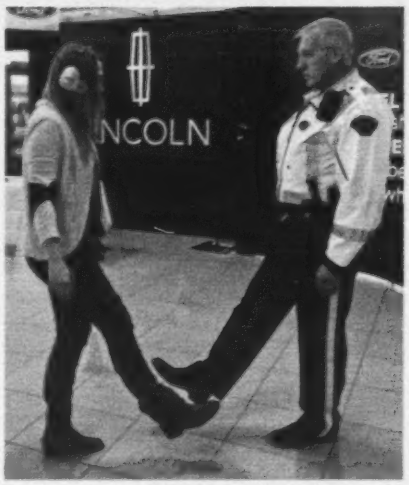
"People have to carry the social responsibility of managing their alcohol intake and making the right choices and decisions before they drive," says Russell. "This was fantastic public education as far as getting word out there for impaired driving."

Russell has worked in traffic services for the majority of his nearly 15-year career with the RCMP. He says the effects of the suit were a perfect replication of how alcohol impairs a person's faculties.

Many of the participants were shocked by how impaired they felt when they put all the components on. Anderson, who tried it himself, describes the experience as very disorienting and unpleasant.

But it certainly accomplished its intended goal. Some of the local stories were picked up nationally, which helped spread the word even further.

"When I go out in public in uniform now, people will say, 'I saw you on the news,' and they'll strike up a conversation about it — that's been fantastic," says Russell. "As far as education is involved, that impact is immeasurable." ▪



Ford Canada

Cst. Elmer Russell conducts a sobriety test on a journalist wearing a Ford Motors drunk suit.

POLICE AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER TO SWEEP RIVER

By Deidre Seiden

For the first time last fall, the RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) conducted a visual river sweep of the North Saskatchewan River with the goal of possibly recovering the remains of one or more missing people.

Within the first 10 minutes of starting the river sweep, the EPS recovered a body floating in the river.

"It didn't meet the original goal that I was looking for because I was hoping it would help clear historical files," says Cst. Cory Kerr, of the EPS. "But I would say it was a success in the fact that we did locate an individual that prevented opening a new historical file and that person's recovered body was then handled respectfully."

With help from Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and Park Rangers, the EPS used boats and a helicopter to scan the river and riverbanks to look for human remains and clothing within Edmonton city limits. The RCMP used a helicopter to search the longer portion of the North Saskatchewan River from the eastern limit of the City of Edmonton to the Saskatchewan border.

Sgt. Neil Zurowell, Edmonton Police Service

Edmonton Police Service prepare to start the first river sweep initiative of the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton, Alta.

Cpl. Ray Tardif was a spotter in the helicopter.

"We didn't recover anything on our section of the search," says Tardif. "But bodies have been found that have floated all the way from the Edmonton area into northeastern Saskatchewan, so we wanted to cover all areas from one point to the next in tandem with Edmonton Police."

In the spring, the Alberta RCMP met with the EPS to discuss doing a river search and other missing persons initiatives.

The EPS has several ongoing investigations in which the missing person is believed to have entered the river and there are currently 36 people who have been reported missing to RCMP detachments in communities along the North Saskatchewan River.

Both agencies would like to work together to make the river sweep initiative an annual event in the fall when the water level of the river is at its lowest and clearest.

"It's definitely something that we'd like to do again," says Tardif. "We might make a few changes to how we do it. It's a case of learning as you go." ▪

RCMP HELPS ADAPT PROGRAM FOR INUIT YOUTH

By Sigrid Forberg

The RCMP's Aboriginal Shield program was designed to help local facilitators speak with youth about issues that young people face, like gangs, alcohol and drugs, through drawing on aboriginal cultural references, quotes and images.

But in Nunavut, the majority of the references weren't resonating with students.

"The Arctic is quite unique and a lot of the information that the southern part of Canada develops isn't always relevant," says Theresa Koonoo, with the Department of Health in Iqaluit. "We want to ensure that the information we're providing will be understood and absorbed by the students."

Koonoo gives the example of sacred tobacco, which is important for southern aboriginal people, but because trees and plants don't grow up North, doesn't apply in a northern context. So the RCMP has been working with the Department of Health and the Department of Education, drawing on Inuit quotes, artwork and cultural references to adapt the content.

Sgt. Yvonne Niego, from the RCMP's community policing unit in Nunavut, was born and raised in Baker Lake, Nunavut. She says it's extremely important that the content being presented to the Inuit youth be culturally relevant to them.

V Division Community Policing

Former Acting Commanding Officer Supt. Maureen Levy signs a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Nunavut's Deputy Minister of Health, Colleen Stockley, to collaborate on refreshing the Aboriginal Shield program.

"We were living nomadically in the last 50 to 60 years so it can be difficult for youth to navigate growing up in Nunavut when a lot of our elders have knowledge that applies more to the environment and a younger generation with a more worldly mindset — there can be some mixed messages," says Niego.

They hope to roll out the new program this coming fall, in time for the new school year. They'll be training local facilitators to present the material to students, ensuring continuity and consistency for the program.

"We rely tremendously on partnerships to ensure programs are followed through," says Niego. "As good as the RCMP is, we need the community to be a part of the programs, to help serve the community and to be inclusive." ■

CRACKED ENCRYPTED HARD DRIVE LEADS TO NEW CHARGES

By Deidre Seiden

A Saskatoon, Sask., man is facing new child pornography charges after a forensics team was able to crack a military-grade encrypted hard drive after 2½ years of diligent work.

Justin Gerard Gryba, 26, was originally arrested and charged with child pornography after an investigation by the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit in late 2011 and was sentenced to two years in jail.

At the time, police had uncovered evidence of child pornography and recovered two hard drives after executing a search warrant.

"We didn't really find this massive collection at first, but we believed that he did have one because he also had in his possession these two external hard drives that were password protected and encrypted," says S/Sgt. Ron Weir, of the Saskatchewan ICE unit.

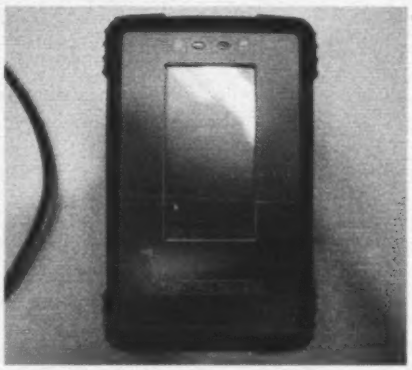
The forensic team had several challenges to overcome, including defeating the brute force counter, a feature on the device that would be initiated after exceeding a number of failed password attempts. After 10 failed attempts, the encryption key would be destroyed leaving the data on the device unrecoverable.

Once they were able to overcome those challenges, Sgt. Joel Bautista, the lead forensic technician on the case from the Saskatoon Police Department, knew it was only a matter of time.

"There were three quadrillion password possibilities, which is 15 zeroes after three," says Bautista. "I thought considering the key space and the maximum amount of characters, we were looking at maybe over a decade to go through all the possibilities."

Bautista worked closely with two RCMP forensic technicians in Ottawa, Ont., to crack the encrypted external hard drive. It's the first time a police agency has successfully cracked this type of hard drive.

"When you've been waiting for something for 2½ years to happen and it comes, it's awesome," says Bautista. "It was rewarding because once we got it, what we suspected was in there, was in there. It led to the arrest and new charges."



Sgt. Joel Bautista

After an initial investigation, it took police 2½ years to crack this encrypted hard drive that led to child pornography charges.

The new charges against Gryba include two charges of making child pornography, one charge of possession of child pornography and two charges of voyeurism. ■

Jamaican Constabulary Force

Liaison officers connect Canadian law enforcement agencies with the right people in the countries they're responsible for. From left to right, Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) A/Commr. Kevin Blake, RCMP S/Sgt. Dave Rampersad, Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis, JCF Commissioner Owen Ellington (now retired) in Jamaica.

LEVERAGING RELATIONSHIPS

LIAISON OFFICERS INCREASE RCMP INFLUENCE ABROAD

By Deidre Seiden

In the more than two years that Insp. Peter Lambertucci has been an RCMP liaison officer (LO) posted abroad, he says he's never done the same thing two days in a row.

One day he might be working on a drug investigation, the next it could be a human smuggling, a homicide investigation or a national security threat.

"One of the challenges is you have to come into the job with a breadth of skills," says Lambertucci. "Layer one is you really have to understand all the elements of a criminal investigation."

As a part of the LO network, he's there to support the RCMP and other Canadian law enforcement agencies in advancing investigations at home that have a nexus abroad and to support criminal investigations there that have a Canadian connection.

ONE INTERNATIONAL

After almost two years as the LO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Lambertucci has been reassigned to a new post in Canberra, Australia, which was one of the 18 countries that was a part of his area of responsibility (AOR) from Kuala Lumpur.

"With the opening of Australia this summer, it allowed us to sever part of the AOR, with Canberra and Kuala Lumpur now splitting the countries," says Lambertucci.

LOs work out of the Canadian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission in the country in which they're based. They work closely with Canadian partners like the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and Canada Border Services Agency.

The Canberra office is one of four new international posts that the RCMP opened in 2014 on a trial basis as part of its new strategy, One International, that aims to increase the RCMP's reach, visibility and influence abroad.

"We want to have a strong presence on the global stage," says C/Supt. Eric Slinn, director general of Federal and International Services at the RCMP. "Communication has made our world smaller and it's becoming, in one sense, increasingly difficult to fight organized crime and national security threats at home. Now you have to take the fight to them."

The new posts, in Canberra, Australia, Ankara, Turkey, Panama City, Panama and Nairobi, Kenya, were strategically chosen, key areas where having LOs will help Canadian law enforcement agencies at home.

In a first for the RCMP, there are now 10 criminal analysts posted around the globe. Each analyst works with an LO, and sometimes more than one depending on their AOR, and in a few posts, are directly embedded with a local law enforcement agency.

"We thought there would be great value in putting criminal analysts in theatre with the LOs, doing the analytical work and then building their own network," says Slinn. "Getting information at the source, that was key. It's the same old idea that you have to be there to get something."

Sgt. Marc Labonté, the LO for the new post in Turkey, has wanted this to happen since his first LO position in Morocco several years ago.

"At that time, I was covering 26 countries, it was information overload," says Labonté. "I said if I could have a partner with me, I'd prefer to have an analyst because of their ability to take information, see trends, create charts and develop reports. Now to do that locally here in Turkey, we can gather and give National Headquarters the information needed with the local perspective of the analyst."

The 14 new posts increases the RCMP's international footprint to 51 resources posted abroad, which is one more than Slinn's original goal of 50.

"If we're going to take the fight offshore, which I think we have to do, we're going to have to increase our presence out there," says Slinn.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Increasing the RCMP's presence is just the first step. Once the LOs and analysts are there, it's their job to hit the ground running.

One of the key messages that LOs learn in pre-deployment, the training they receive before they leave for their new position, is to go to their post and meet the right people.

The RCMP International Liaison Co-ordination Centre (ILCC) provides support to the LOs, with each one assigned to a desk officer.

"Their main job is to network," says S/Sgt. Richard Marcotte, a desk officer responsible for the Asia Pacific territory. "An LO receives a lot of requests. They'll get the job done if they have the right contacts and the right people in place."

Then they have to multiply this by up to 21 countries, depending on how many countries fall under their AOR.

"If the LO has a contact already, they can make a phone call," says S/Sgt. Eric Lalancette, a regional co-ordinator with the ILCC. "If they don't, then they're going to go in person and network and try to find the answer or information that's being sought by the unit back in Canada."

And the very foundation of these partnerships is built on trust.

"If you can gain the trust of those other law enforcement agencies, they'll start exchanging information," says Slinn. "You'll start exchanging information and you'll start to see how those reciprocal relationships with trust flourish and solve a greater amount of crime."

ADVANCING OPERATIONS

Since Lambertucci already had a network established in Australia, he worked on building stronger relationships and growing that network. It's his favourite part of the job.

"From a relationship basis and understanding that as an LO your work is as good as the relationships you can form, it's just a really great feeling when you have successes and you're bridging relationships and building partnerships to do that," says Lambertucci.

If it weren't for LOs, a lot of investigations that have an international component would either take much longer or would come to a standstill. They're tasked by every division of the RCMP and serve all other Canadian law enforcement agencies as well.

In 2011, Cpl. Trent Marshall, alongside a team of Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) officers based in Kelowna, B.C., began an investigation into an organized crime group operating in British Columbia that was exporting marijuana and importing cocaine. The investigation also included conducting an undercover operation in Mexico City, Mexico.

Arrangements were made through the LO's office to put the investigators from Canada in touch with the right authorities in Mexico City, enabling the undercover operation to take place.

"We went through a very detailed operational plan process in order to carry out the undercover operation in a foreign country," says Marshall. "That undercover operation was so successful that we subsequently conducted two additional undercover operations in Panama and, once again, the LO's office out of Columbia (responsible for Panama) helped us facilitate it."

It wasn't the first time Marshall successfully worked with the LO in other countries. In 2010, liaison officers in Brazil and Mexico helped an FSOC investigation involving a large amount of cocaine that was being imported in a commercial fruit grinding machine from Argentina. It led to the conviction of three men on several charges.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

At the very root of what Lambertucci, Labonté and all the LOs do is information sharing, which is done through Memorandums of Understanding and through informal, face-to-face conversations.

It's a reciprocal relationship; whatever they're allowed to share, they will share with their partners abroad. Most RCMP LOs are part of an LO group or association that allows them to regularly meet with their counterparts, like the American, Australian and British LOs, as well as the local partners.

"If you have a good relationship with your partners, they'll let you know when they know about a Canadian there," says Marcotte. "That's how you're going to find out the information, through police contacts. If it's not the locals, another partner will tell you that there's a Canadian group or person here operating."

That's when the LO will open an investigation, which is something that Slinn hopes to see more often. He'd like to see LOs move from being task-driven to mission-driven.

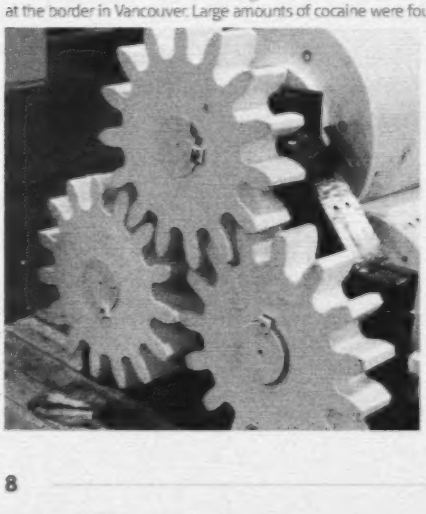
He likens this to front-line police officers being dispatched to a call versus the times when police officers aren't being dispatched, they often do something proactive, like set up a checkpoint to make sure that people are wearing their seatbelts.

"Taking into consideration the type of criminality that's typical in their AOR, like the Middle East, is more around national security issues, I want our LOs to look for opportunities to advance operational files in that area," says Slinn.

While LOs play a significant role abroad, they don't have jurisdiction outside of Canada, once again relying on their partners to help.

The relationships work two ways. Canada shares information with their partners and

LOs assisted an international investigation after cocaine was found in a commercial fruit grinding machine that was stopped at the border in Vancouver. Large amounts of cocaine were found when the commercial fruit grinder was dismantled.



FSOC, Kelowna, RCMP

helps the foreign agencies with investigations that affect Canada, but they also offer capacity building to the nations that benefit from it.

It's a way for the RCMP to leverage those organizations that they work with and develop trust in one another by offering things like investigative training, forensic interviewing, surveillance training, interview techniques and ship boarding and searching.

They do what's called a needs assessment mission, which is done in concert with DFATD. Then they meet the partner agencies and ask, "What can we do to help you?"

"We never want to tell them what we think they need," says Lambertucci. "We always want them to work with us, and by helping them there it helps us back home."

Lynn Church

LOs work with foreign counterparts on investigations that affect Canada. An LO's success depends on the relationships they build and the network of partners they develop in their area of responsibility.

CHALLENGING BUT REWARDING

To be successful, the LOs have to learn the laws and the culture of the country they're in and knowing the language is an asset. They also have to learn the operating procedures and policies of the local police as these can be very different from those in Canada.

"Our LOs are expected to have a variety of operational experiences," says Insp. Rich Baylin, officer in charge of International Operations and Policing Development. "Expertise in areas such as major crime, drugs, financial crime and national security are essential given the type of investigations an LO is expected to support."

Their decision making has to be sound and it has to be with confidence. "It has to be of a certain level of knowledge, skills and abilities — what we call the KSAs — to make decisions on a day-to-day basis," says Lambertucci.

While they have the support of the ILCC and the network of other foreign LOs that they can turn to if they have questions, for the most part, it's just them.

It's not an easy job, but it's an important job. "That's what makes it great," says Labonté. "You get to experience different cities and cultures, and even the way that different police forces work."

And Canada is a safer place for it.

"Without our LOs liaising for us between the countries they work in, we wouldn't be getting the assistance that we're getting right now from our partners abroad," says Lalancette.

It's the relationship an LO has with his local partners and network, like police and prosecutors, that make them instrumental in Canada's ability to carry out criminal operations abroad.

"We're not police when we go there," says Marshall. "We need their contacts. We need to work with our partners on a far more regular basis so that we can essentially stop crime where it's starting as opposed to doing it far down the line back here in Canada." ■

INTERNATIONAL ANALYSTS TAP INTO INTELLIGENCE

From London to Dubai, 10 RCMP criminal analysts have been deployed as part of a pilot project to track transnational terrorism and organized crime in key areas that affect the safety of Canadians back home.

"By sending criminal analysts abroad, they can tap into this intelligence at the source and send it back to Canada," says C/Supt. Warren Coons, the director general, National Intelligence Co-ordination Centre.

Kathleen Macoomb is the analyst deployed overseas, or ADO, in Mexico City, Mexico. From the information she gathers, she looks for links, patterns and trends.

"I can connect files in my area of responsibility (AOR) that have a nexus back to Canada," says Macoomb. "The liaison officers are very busy, but I'm able to focus on the different files they're working on, as well as my own, and find any connections within them."

The ADOs build a strong network of partners in their AOR. Through face-to-face conversations, they're able to nurture relationships and build trust that facilitates information exchanges.

"With the partners in my AOR, if they have information regarding individuals, trends, drug routes, then I can bring that back to Canada as investigative leads or strategic information," says Macoomb. "If we're not there, we won't have access to that information. We may only ever know the Canadian side or we may never learn about a specific topic at all."

These opportunities to work with international partners assist the RCMP in finding key connections in organized crime and terrorism files that benefit Canada's national security, as well as contribute to international law enforcement investigations ongoing in their AOR.

So far, the ADO pilot project has surpassed expectations, says Debbie Counsel, the ADOs' supervisor.

"If you look at drug trafficking, we might have picked up a controlled delivery of drugs on Canadian soil, but we didn't know the source. Our analysts abroad have been able to articulate what that connection is, who the sources are and where they're located," says Counsel. "The doors have been opened to a whole new conduit of information."

— Deidre Seiden

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

CAPACITY BUILDING ENHANCES FOREIGN AGENCIES' SKILLS

By Sigrid Forberg

When Sgt. Rabih Abdallah was posted as the liaison officer (LO) in Rabat, Morocco, his work involved travelling through his area of responsibility (AOR), which consisted of 25 countries.

What he noticed in the West and Central African countries was that the policing agencies lacked funding, training and basic equipment.

"The tough part is describing it because when I say the word 'basic,' everyone in Canada has a certain idea of what basic is," says Abdallah. "But often that idea is still 100 per cent better than reality."

GIVING BACK

So Abdallah looked into what he could offer the countries he works with, which brought him to reach out to the RCMP's Capacity Building Program.

Part of the Federal and International Special Services, the Capacity Building Program is a centralized unit that manages and co-ordinates international capacity-building projects. They also work on identifying regions and agencies that can benefit from projects that in turn support the RCMP's priorities.

Projects range from mentoring and training to providing equipment. Each project is meant to help foreign law enforcement agencies enhance the skills and knowledge they need to address transnational crime and terrorism, with a focus on the RCMP's strategic priorities.

"It's an excellent tool for LOs to offer something to foreign agencies in return for their contributions to what we need from that particular region," says Mihaela Pavel, an analyst with the program.

Because the work of an LO often involves requesting information or assistance from these foreign agencies, having access to tangible and helpful resources gives the LOs something to offer their AOR countries.

"For the LOs, the program is one of the only tools they have to give back to the foreign countries or contacts they have," says S/Sgt. Steeves Veilleux, the manager of the Capacity Building Program. "And it also helps them build relationships with local contacts."

A BETTER APPROACH

For Abdallah, he wanted to offer the police agencies in his AOR basic skills officers could use throughout their careers, as well as techniques that would be helpful when foreign assistance was required for Canadian investigations. And so he identified interviewing techniques.

"What I noticed was essentially police officers yelling at suspects and just thinking that the fact that they're police officers would impress or intimidate people into talking to them," says Abdallah. "I thought, 'We're beyond that. At this stage, we can do better.'"

In collaboration with the Capacity Building Program, a project proposal was prepared to obtain funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. The reasoning for the need being that although his AOR didn't produce a large number of files with a Canadian connection, the files that did were often important ones.

Funding was approved for seven one-week sessions with 24 candidates per session. The program, which included candidates from Morocco, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad, had a train the trainer approach, started in January 2013 and finished last fall.

Cst. Eric Boissoneault, who is an RCMP interviewing techniques instructor from Quebec, sat in on the last two of those sessions. It can be difficult to get subject matter experts released for these projects, but Boissoneault says the benefit for the RCMP is clear.

"We were there to teach them to meet an international standard of interviewing techniques," says Boissoneault. "So when we request information from them in the future, they're going to gather it in the way we want them to and a way that's respectful of human rights."

INFLUENCING CHANGE

Abdallah says the course had a huge impact in Morocco especially. When they were delivering the first course, he realized the Moroccan legislation didn't make some of the techniques possible.

He invited a contact at the Ministry of Justice to observe one of the sessions to see its validity. And a year and a half later, changes have now been enacted in their legislation and the techniques are being incorporated at their police academy.

The success of the project in Morocco is exactly what Veilleux says they hope to accomplish through the capacity building program.

"The return benefit is simple in a way," says Veilleux. "When you have foreign police forces with better skills and knowledge to investigate, the better they're going to be able to help us when we need their assistance." ■

A trainer with the Moroccan police presents an RCMP completion of training certificate to a female Moroccan police officer.

General Directorate for National Security

IN MISSION, CONTINUITY IS KEY

SPECIALIZED TEAMS PROVIDE CONSISTENT APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Sûreté du Québec

Specialized teams, like the Management Advisory Team, work with the Haitian National Police to address gaps in development.

By Deidre Seiden

When Canada deploys police officers to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), they become United Nations police officers (UNPOLs). As such, the UN decides how best to use these resources.

This is the way the mission has operated since it began in 2004. But after the earthquake in 2010, a new approach emerged.

The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and children in the tent cities — where close to a million people were living post-earthquake — caught the world's attention and needed addressing.

"There was a problem with the fact that rape or any sexual crimes are treated as a minor offence, tiff or assault," says former MINUSTAH Police Commissioner Marc Tardiff. "We needed to change that mindset."

A NEW CONCEPT EMERGES

SGBV became a major focus of the mission. When Norway approached the UN in 2010 about developing a specialized team to focus on the issue of SGBV, Tardiff had his doubts.

It came down to being able to use the resources where he thought they were needed. Norway, who committed to funding the team, wanted to keep the unit together and have control over the project.

"But after having gone through six months, nine months of the special project, what I found was this was the best approach," says Tardiff.

In phase one, the SGBV specialized team trained about 1,000 Haitian National Police (HNP) officers from all regions of Haiti on how to handle domestic violence and sexual assault cases. This included training the trainer so the HNP can take ownership of the project when they're ready.

They've also provided logistical support for building proper facilities within police stations where victims of SGBV can feel comfortable reporting the crime.

Since the beginning, two Canadian UNPOLs have been a part of the team. And as part of negotiations for phase two, which has begun, the Norwegians added a special clause to ensure that Canadians will remain part of the team.

The team is now working on several activities including a new concept where the HNP set up a two-week clinic at a hospital in the region of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti.

"A lot of the time, victims go see their doctor and then they don't have the transportation or communication to call the police," says RCMP Sgt. Alain Tremblay, a member of the SGBV team. "With this concept, it's like a one-stop shop. This allowed the victim to talk to the police at the same time."

A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

When it came time for the RCMP to report what Canada did the previous year of the mission, they noticed the SGBV team made substantial progress and was able to articulate the results they achieved in building HNP capacity, says Sgt. Pierre Rivet, a project officer with the RCMP International Policing Development.

It's because over a period of time there was continuity in the approach since the project was run by the Norwegians and Canadians, which typically doesn't happen.

"We realized that specialized teams were the way to go," says Rivet.

Now, in addition to being involved in the SGBV specialized team, Canada is working with the UN to develop three new projects on serious and organized crime, community policing and a management advisory team (MAT).

"We're there to work side-by side with them as coaches," says RCMP Sgt. Stéphane Bérubé of the MAT. "We're trying to get them to think strategically, not just in the short term, but for the long term."

The MAT project supports middle managers in training so they can implement what they learn in the field. Although still in its infancy, Bérubé says it's running smoothly.

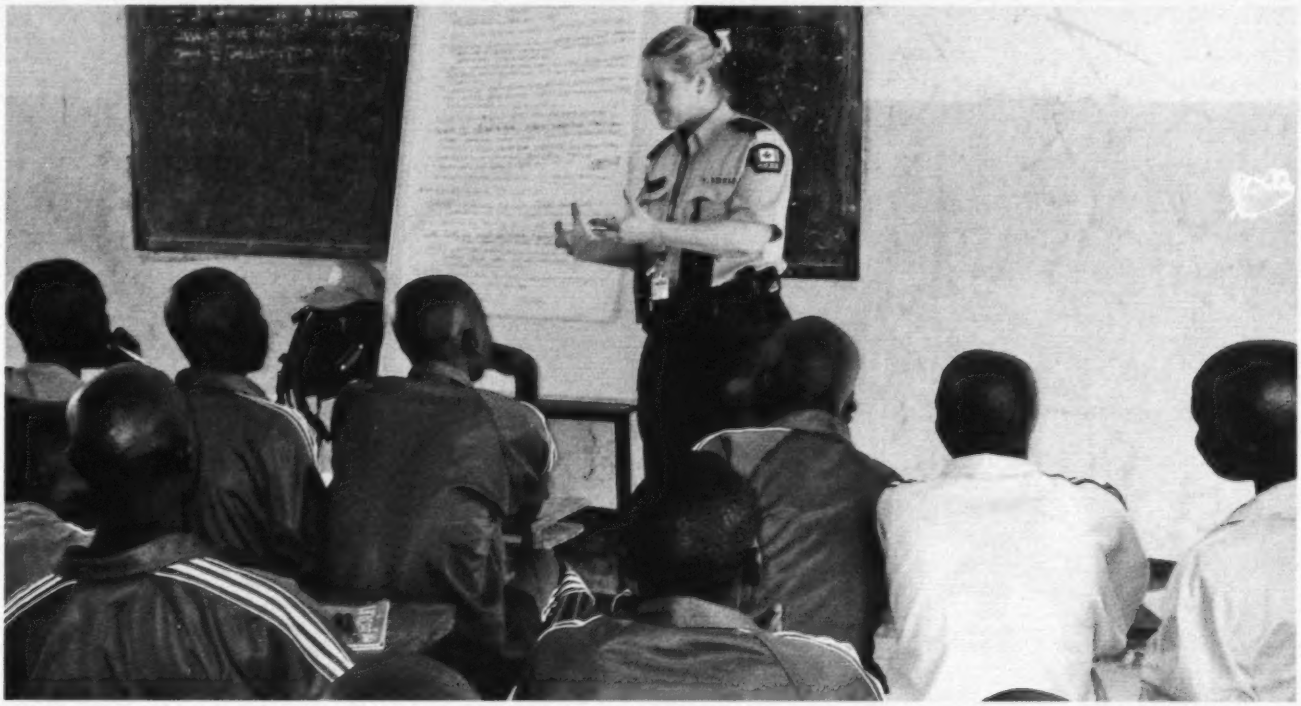
"We're improving all the time," he says. "And we get new police officers who arrive to the mission from Canada and they have new ideas, but in a year from now, we'll still have the same objective, which is to make the HNP better by having a stronger management team." ■

WHAT ROLE DOES CULTURAL AWARENESS PLAY IN POLICING ABROAD?

THE PANELLISTS

- **S/Sgt. Roch Côté, NCO i/c, INTERPOL Operations, RCMP**
- **Sgt. Det. Janice Laws, Criminal Investigations, Montreal Police Service**
- **Supt. J.M. (Joe) McAllister, director, Critical Incident Program, RCMP**

UN/MINUSTAH



In many cultures, relationships are more important than roles, says Sgt. Det. Janice Laws, pictured above.

S/SGT. ROCH CÔTÉ

It's not uncommon for people going on vacation abroad to research the country they're visiting. After all, as guests, they want to be respectful of others' cultures and mindful of their customs and courtesies. It's no different for police officers and personnel serving abroad.

In my opinion, culture plays an important role in people's lives. And we need to understand what a culture requires and what emotions are attached to it. Different countries follow different cultures and because of this, some things will be acceptable in some countries whereas the same things will appear to be rude in others. Learning and trying to understand the customs and culture of a foreign country indicates respect for the other country and for any business relationship to be successful, respect for each other is essential.

When you move into someone else's backyard, it's important that you learn all you can about them in order to win over their trust and respect. Knowing the culture and the mentality of the people who live in a specific country is crucial to understanding how to draw strategies that receive the support of the local population. It's also important to know its political system, its decision-making cultures, its codes, and its written and non-written rules.

I've worked as a liaison officer for four years in Pakistan, covering Afghanistan and Iran as well. I came to know very quickly that people from these countries have a strong relationship-focused culture. The relationship is what's important. Relationship-focused people prefer to do business with friends, families and people well known to them. For Pakistani officials or Afghan officials, business is personal. In a relationship-focused culture, it's useful to understand the patterns for building relationships and to take the time to establish trust and friendship.

Understanding this is essential to policing success in the Middle East. To get things done for the long term, police officers in any capacity must spend time gaining credibility and building relationships. A liaison officer, for example, can't expect to go in, say these things need to happen tomorrow, and then be surprised when all does not go well. Focusing on relationships means taking the time to have tea, talk about the weather, discuss families and the latest cricket match. When dealing with people from the Middle East, one must go slowly to achieve lasting success.

We should always handle overseas dealings with cultural sensitivity to avoid

offence to foreign partners. Being culturally aware will also avoid the expense of miscommunication. All in all, becoming culturally aware will allow us to handle international relations with respect and understanding. Ultimately, this will contribute toward gaining our foreign partners' co-operation for achieving our objectives.

SGT. DET. JANICE LAWS

Cultural awareness is essential to success and positive outcomes in policing abroad.

What may influence a culture are a myriad of things that may not be apparent to an outsider. Human nature wants us to belong in a society. Our culture often dictates our behaviours and attitudes. The need for self-esteem and self-actualization may have us promoting and preferring our culture of origin.

While policing abroad, we must be open to the positive aspects of another culture without feeling threatened.

Finding ourselves in a work environment that's in another culture confronts us psychologically. Our minds struggle to adapt to a new environment, sights and sounds. Here we must look for the similarities and commonalities of our shared humanity to help us stay positive and open minded.

We all laugh, cry, eat, sleep, and have families we care about. This basic human connection allows me to empathize and be less likely to judge negatively.

Inversely, I need to understand others' impressions of me. My culture, habits, dress, role and behaviours may seem odd to them. Achieving success in international policing depends on communication for the transfer of skills and mentoring. Our efforts are futile if we don't gain the respect of the officers. We need credibility to be heard and understood, and for them to adopt the new ways of policing we are proposing.

The importance of cultural awareness is an organizational philosophy practised in all United Nations missions around the world. Respect for diversity is a core value that allows all individuals working together to have a baseline that helps us come together in the service of the cause.

When assigned to an international policing mission, we need to study all we can about the host countries. We need to look at our own views, values, perceptions, prejudices, stereotypes and misconceptions and have an honest understanding of who we are and what we believe. If we come across as critical or judgmental, we'll be counterproductive to the mission. We must never underestimate how others perceive us. We are highly visible and our actions are constantly scrutinized.

In many cultures, relationships are more important than roles. If the relationships aren't established with respect and mutual understanding, the roles may not be considered.

In choosing to treat others as my brothers and sisters — my extended family of humanity — I approach everyone with love and respect, and try to be generous with my time, show interest, listen and ask questions. It may be a while before the time is right to start imparting my knowledge and experience.

Letting them see my humanity is key. The influence of people from another culture in a society changes that culture, potentially creating a new culture. Winning hearts and minds can't be achieved without considering culture.

SUPT. JOE MCALLISTER

The role of cultural awareness can't be understated in policing abroad. After five missions, one of the most important things I've learned is to understand where you are, who you're working with and how they got to their current state of affairs.

While preparing for a mission, police officers need to understand that they're no longer working in an environment where community policing is understood and for the most part accepted. We police in failed states where, historically, policing has sometimes been part of the problem. In many of these countries, the police were the strong arm of the government, which may have been seen as oppressive, unfair, violent and unresponsive to community, minority and gender needs.

On my first deployment to Kosovo in 2001, I mistakenly believed that many of the societal issues were related to the break-up of the former Yugoslavia. But after riding around with local Kosovarian police officers and hearing their stories, I soon learned some of the issues between Serbs and Albanians went back beyond the First World War.

Understanding the root cause of historical complaints and cultural differences is critical when we're trying to get different cultures to not only work together, but protect members of the community whom they may have a deep-rooted hatred for.

Once officers get a full understanding of all these cultural issues, they can then start having conversations with the local police and population without seemingly taking sides thus ensuring a fair, objective and equitable process is used in decision making and policing those communities.

The other key piece is to understand the cultural differences among your policing co-workers. The United Nations, European Union or Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are made up of many countries, each with their own cultural and historical nuances. Working with police officers from countries that are different than your own brings new insights to dealing with many challenges officers face in missions.

On my second tour in Afghanistan, I organized a presentation to the Deputy Minister of Interior for Strategic Policy and several ambassadors about policing structures. I was co-chairing a group on ministerial reform and was asked to bring a number of policing examples to the Afghans for consideration. I brought together presentations from Germany, Britain, The Netherlands, Canada, Jordan, Finland, Turkey and the United States. One of the compelling pieces I remember of this presentation was how the Afghans viewed the discipline process.

While most police agencies have rules, codes of conduct, policies and internal courts, the Afghans relied on local mullahs and imams to ensure their police treated people according to teachings of the Koran. Very similar to how the Jordanians ran their police stations, instead of having a Sergeant Major to deal with conduct and deportment, the local mullah would come to speak to the officers, and locals would complain to the mullah about misconduct. This worked in many areas far better than any set of rules would. It was a learning experience for many senior officers around the table who had been pushing for more civilian oversight of the police.

Both my Jordanian and Turkish counterparts provided me with great insight into the cultural nuances we were facing in Afghanistan and Turkey. They had not only great insight into Afghan culture, but also knew what would and wouldn't work in the region. I learned more about the Muslim culture and policing from these colleagues than any book could have taught me as they showed me the practical applications of the theories we tried to bring to the table. ■

"A HIGHLY CHARGED TALE"

JOURNALIST'S BOOK HIGHLIGHTS RCMP WORK ABROAD

Terry Gould, an investigative journalist, spent a year shadowing Canadian civilian police trainers (CivPol) as they worked with local police officers in Afghanistan, Palestine and Haiti. His book, Worth Dying For: Canada's Mission to Train Police in the World's Failing States, *chronicles the tales of numerous officers he met and their passion for helping create ethical police forces in troubled nations. Sigrid Forberg spoke with Gould about what he found.*

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF POLICE OVERSEAS?

I'd spent over a decade reporting from countries that were basically run like criminal enterprises. What I noticed was that the rulers were employing the police to enforce their own lawlessness. Presidents and prime ministers appointed their closest cronies to top police posts with the understanding that while their salaries would be low, their incomes would be high. In return for support and the sharing of spoils, the police chiefs were granted impunity. The chiefs then sold subordinate commands to their cronies with the same understanding. Midway through that decade, I began documenting the careers of journalists who were murdered in their hometowns in five of those countries. I spent four years on my book, *Murder Without Borders*, telling their stories. Overall, the journalists were murdered for trying to expose the corruption of their governments and, in almost all of the cases I studied, their murders were arranged by the police who served those governments. I don't want to give the impression that every cop I met was corrupt, but the clean ones were concentrated in the junior ranks. The problem, I realized, was that in societies where impunity reigns, even honest cops eventually join the lawbreakers. The prevailing attitude is, "They pay us nothing, they expect us to steal, so we'll steal."

HOW DID YOU THEN FIND CIVPOL?

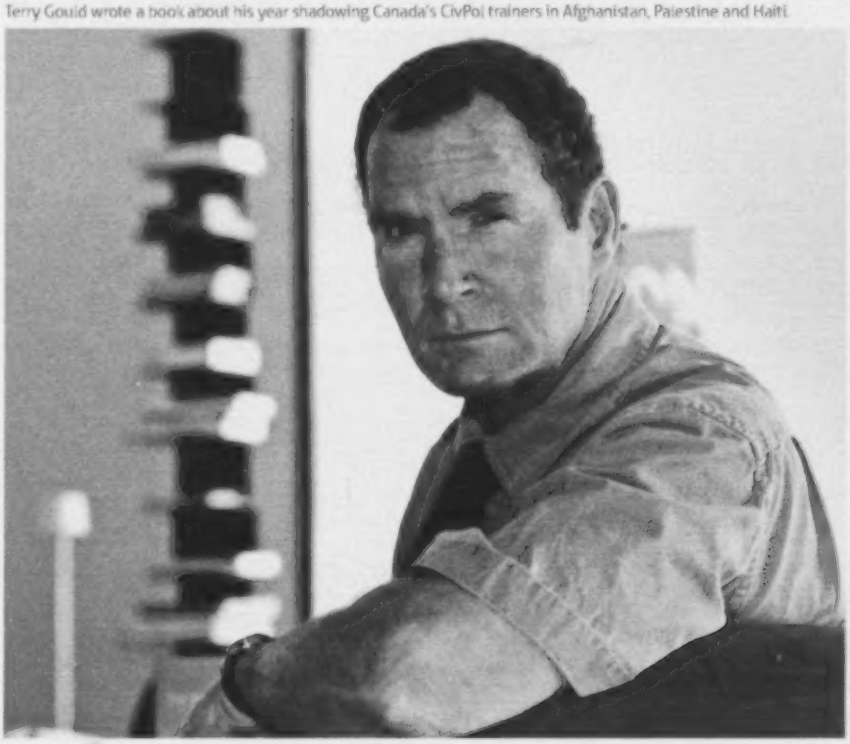
At the end of that decade, I concluded that reforming the police was a key element to reforming systemically corrupt societies. The next question was, "How do you reform entire police forces so that they stand as a check against the predators who are their political masters?" That sounded like a mission impossible to me. But sometimes when a journalist asks a question repeatedly, he meets someone who can answer it. When a student is ready, a teacher appears.

After I published *Murder Without Borders*, I met a Mountie superintendent who believed there was a practical way to reform police forces that oppress civilian populations. His name is Joe McAllister and he'd served three years in failing states with a little-known federal unit called the International Peace Operations Branch [now called International Policing Development]. I'd known that our officers were training police in Haiti, but I didn't know that they were in far-flung regions around the world, carrying forward a strategic mission: build honest, professional, civilian police services in countries devastated by war or teetering on the brink of collapse. They were known by the acronym CivPol, for civilian police trainers, and at that moment, they were risking their lives in nine red-zone missions, including in six of the top 10 countries on Foreign Policy's Failing States Index. And so I thought, this is a holy cow story: not too many people know about this.

WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING TO FIND?

I didn't expect that there was a band of officers who were committed to promoting what is the foundational principle of ethical behaviour in human history. It's an elemental ideal that's prescribed across time and across cultures. It's the Hillelian ethic: "Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you." McAllister, and most police officers I've met in CivPol, view their mission in terms of teaching overseas police forces how to enforce that Hillelian ethic — it's at the core of Canada's civilian police training missions. Our police trainers want to teach police forces around the world how to enact the most fundamental and basic duty of police officers: keep bad people from hurting good people. As a peacekeeping nation, we used to be famous for keeping bad people from hurting good people. Between 1956 and 1992, Canada was often the single largest contributor of soldiers to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, whereas now we're around 70 in the ranking. But that reputation for being on the side of the angels is something Canadians still benefit from

Terry Gould wrote a book about his year shadowing Canada's CivPol trainers in Afghanistan, Palestine and Haiti.



Courtesy Terry Gould

Courtesy Terry Gould

RCMP Cpl. Candice McMackin instructing firearms at Camp Nathan Smith, Kandahar, Afghanistan (2010).

around the world, and the reputation is partly sustained by our CivPol volunteers.

I mean, here I'd been covering countries around the globe that were run according to the principle of organized crime, watching their police use torture and murder to crush any possibility of reform, but never suspecting that we had an entire unit that was dedicated to reforming police forces that behaved that way. As McAllister was reflecting on CivPol officers who'd been killed on mission, as well as local officers he'd trained in Afghanistan who'd been murdered, I thought: this is a highly charged tale of international importance, one that involves idealistic men and women who express their deepest belief in action. That's when I decided to write the book.

SO WHERE DID YOU START?

McAllister was headed back to Afghanistan and I started going through the paperwork to accompany him. Out of all the countries CivPol was in at that time, I chose three because they were at the centre of world attention and showed different aspects of the mission. I chose Afghanistan because it was right in the middle of a bloody war and most experts were saying that an honest police force would be the single most important factor in setting the country on the path to national recovery. One other important reason I chose Afghanistan was that CivPol was deploying female Canadian police to train male and female Afghan cops in Kandahar, where women had almost no rights. The idea was to demonstrate that, in their professional abilities, women were the equal of men. I chose Palestine because it's one of the most complex regions in the world and both the Palestinian Authority and the Israelis believed that a clean Palestinian police force would be essential to an independent Palestinian state. And I chose Haiti because it was at the top of every survey of failing states, particularly after the earthquake. The country had been traumatized so often by natural, homegrown and foreign-imposed catastrophes that its public services were almost non-existent. Haiti's national police force was considered crucial to establishing a functioning state, and our cops were training police throughout the tormented land. They were living among the population and facing the same risks as the population. In fact, I interviewed two of three Mounties who, not long before I got there, had been captured and tortured by the same violent gang that preyed on their neighbours.

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THIS STORY THAT YOU FELT NEEDED TO BE TOLD?

Well, the answer is in your question: it wasn't being told. Almost no one knew what our police were doing in all these countries. If you asked the average Canadian, "Have our police served in Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Guatemala, Iraq, Western Sahara, the Congo, South Sudan and Kyrgyzstan?" they'd say, "What? I thought they were just in Haiti." If there's one thing that's been heartbreaking to me about this lack of knowledge of what our CivPol officers have done overseas for 25 years, it's been their homecoming. I mean, their families meet them at the airport, but there are no monuments to CivPol officers, there's no Highway of Heroes, there's no day of remembrance devoted to them. They're one of the last vestiges of our Blue Helmet heritage and they're heralded in the countries where they train police, but they're almost unknown back here in Canada. And I would just like Canadians to be aware that, since 1989, thousands of their local police have tried to make the world a better place for tens of millions of people in states in crisis. Many of them come home physically or psychologically wounded and they just go back to work, with almost no public recognition for what they've accomplished in war zones as non-combatant police trainers.

They've had successes, they've had failures, they are still works in progress, but it really is a worthy mission and I believe Canadians should know that the people in the countries where Canadians work really value them. In Haiti, local civilians call our Canadian CivPol officers *Canada Bombagay*. It means, "Good Guy Canada." So if you go to Haiti, you're going to be known as Good Guy Canada because our CivPol men and women are down there helping that country set up a lasting institution. ■

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

By Sgt. Ron Bieg, Property Crime Support Unit, Vancouver Police Department

On December 2, 2003, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit initiated an investigation into serial rapist Donald Bakker. Bakker was arrested after he sexually assaulted and tortured a local sex trade worker in Vancouver's downtown eastside (DTES).

During the course of the subsequent investigation, investigators recovered videos that appeared to depict Bakker raping and torturing up to 57 more drug-addicted, vulnerable women from the DTES. Investigators also discovered three video segments in which Bakker was raping young Asian children.

The children appeared to range between four and 10 years of age. In each segment, Bakker was raping three children at a time. The children spoke no English, leading investigators to believe the offences likely occurred in Asia.

The case grew exponentially on the discovery of the videos. Essentially, it was broken up into three parallel investigations:

1. The rape and torture of the women in the DTES
2. Bakker's background and comparing his movements to unsolved crimes in Canada
3. The overseas sexual assaults against children

This third portion of the investigation ultimately led to the first successful prosecution under Canada's child sex tourism legislation.

Section 7(4.1) of the *Criminal Code of Canada* allows for the Canadian prosecution for specified sexual offences against children that occur outside the territorial jurisdiction of Canada.

In 1997, the legislation was amended, removing the requirement to prove the purchase of sexual services of a minor; however the consent of the country in which the offence occurred remained in effect. In July 2002, the legislation was amended yet again, removing the requirement to have the consent of the host country prior to launching a Canadian prosecution.

INVESTIGATIVE CHALLENGES

Although police could see what Bakker had done, they couldn't prove the essential elements of a criminal charge. The children looked to be under 14 (the age of consent at the time), but they were likely from an impoverished land where children develop at different rates than in North America. Without proving the children's ages beyond a reasonable doubt, there could be no criminal prosecution.

Even assuming the children's ages could be proven and consent was no longer a potential defence, investigators still needed to prove when and possibly where the offences occurred. If the offences occurred prior to July 2002, investigators would need to identify the country in which Bakker offended so their officials could formally agree to a Canadian prosecution.

Investigators conducted traditional investigative queries but found no leads. The videos were filmed indoors so there were no landmarks or other identifiers in the background. Forensic analysis of the videotapes yielded no probative information.

Bakker's passport was examined, but he had travelled extensively throughout Southeast Asia several years in a row. The children in the video spoke a mixture of Khmer (the Cambodian language) and Vietnamese, but because many of these children are trafficked from country to country, this was of limited value.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

It became apparent that police resources alone would never find the evidence needed to convict Bakker, so investigators turned to non-police experts and international resources for assistance.

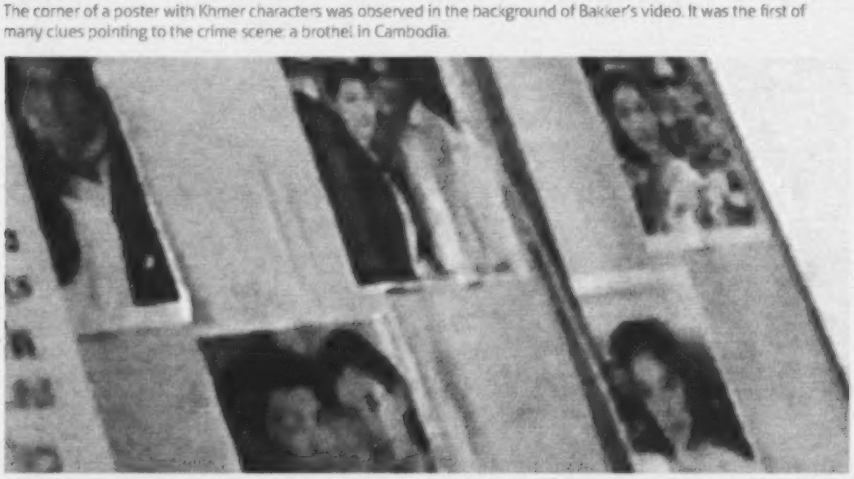
In the hope that someone would recognize one or more of the children, investigators isolated 19 facial stills of the children. They also isolated hundreds of background images from the three rooms in which Bakker had molested the children.

Investigators believed the most crucial element was the ages of the children. Unable to find any local experts to provide a definitive opinion on their ages, investigators researched methods of measuring sexual maturation rates of children.

Investigators could find only one study on the maturation rate of ethnically Asian children outside of North America or Europe. This study, conducted by North Carolina Pediatrician Dr. Sharon Cooper, studied the maturation rates of children growing up in developing countries where malnourishment and childhood disease are endemic. Investigators contacted Dr. Cooper, who agreed to view the images of the children and provide an expert opinion on their ages.

Meanwhile, investigators sought resources to identify the children and the scenes of crime. Through a plea to regional Canadian police contacts for assistance, investigators were referred to a civilian RCMP tool mark

The corner of a poster with Khmer characters was observed in the background of Bakker's video. It was the first of many clues pointing to the crime scene: a brothel in Cambodia.



Vancouver Police Department

Vancouver Police Department

Vancouver police investigators work with NGO staff in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

examiner, Brian McConaghy. McConaghy had founded several charities in Cambodian communities since the early 1990s.

He agreed to view the images and provide whatever assistance he could. McConaghy observed a distinctly Khmer (or Cambodian) pattern on a scarf in the background of one of the videos. He also noted the corner of a poster that appeared to be written in the Khmer language. These and other clues led him to believe the crimes likely occurred in Cambodia.

McConaghy provided VPD investigators with contacts for a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Cambodia. These included human rights organizations, health care providers and caregivers for children rescued from sexual slavery. Investigators contacted these NGOs and determined which of them had the potential knowledge and/or capability to assist the VPD investigation.

Four NGOs were selected and contacted. Investigators sent the 19 assorted facial stills and hundreds of background stills from the videos to these selected NGOs. Within weeks, all four independently identified that there were only seven children, not nine as initially believed, and the names and ages of the children.

By the time VPD investigators received these identifications, they had also determined through facial recognition that there were only seven children. They concluded that one child appeared in all three of the video segments.

The children were between four and nine years old at the time of the crimes. Several had been rescued from sexual slavery the previous spring in a joint undercover operation between one of the NGOs and a special unit of the Cambodian National Police.

VPD investigators had also received the expert opinion from Dr. Cooper by this time. Her report similarly concluded there were only seven children, and her age estimation for each child was within a year of their actual ages.

INVESTIGATING OVERSEAS

The undercover operation and rescue of the children occurred in the town of Svay Pak, Cambodia. All four NGOs indicated the town, and two tentatively identified rooms that were inside brothels in Svay Pak. Satisfied that sufficient evidence now existed to prove the essential element, investigators decided to send an investigative team to Cambodia to secure this evidence in a manner meeting the requisite standard of Canadian courts.

There was no precedent for this type of investigation. The cultural and bureaucratic differences between Canada and Cambodia are immense. Because Canadian police have no jurisdiction in Cambodia, both Canadian and Cambodian government permissions and assistance were required.

VPD investigators sought access to the tentatively identified crime scenes, and sent select evidence from their investigation to Cambodian National Police to support this request.

Investigators again turned to Brian McConaghy for guidance and assistance. When VPD investigators ran into bureaucratic roadblocks, both in Canada and abroad, McConaghy provided contact information for officials who could expedite the process. When selecting team members to travel to Cambodia, he provided cultural and sociological perspectives so completely foreign to Canadian values that they hadn't even been considered. When VPD investigators received communication from Cambodian officials and NGOs, he interpreted the nuanced messages contained within, advising on the hidden meanings and suggesting how best to respond.

The diplomatic discussions continued for several weeks, and it soon became clear that investigators would have to meet with Cambodian officials directly to secure the necessary permissions. Without guarantees of access to crime scenes or witnesses, the VPD investigative team left for Cambodia. The relationships the team had built with Cambodian officials and NGOs over the past few months truly proved their worth.

After a series of meetings, the Cambodian government agreed to assist the VPD team. Based on the information provided by the VPD, the Cambodian National Police obtained a warrant authorizing a search for evidence to confirm the scenes of crime. The Canadian Ambassador allowed VPD investigators to interview witnesses in the embassy so statements could be taken in Canadian jurisdiction. NGOs brought witnesses to the embassy for their interviews and they provided vehicles, drivers, interpreters, office space, equipment and expertise.

VPD investigators interviewed dozens of witnesses who could identify the children and testify about their ages. The Cambodian National Police escorted the VPD investigative team to the village of Svay Pak to execute the warrant. VPD investigators, with the assistance and authority of the Cambodian National Police, located the two rooms already tentatively identified, and also the third room depicted in Bakker's videos.

The VPD investigative team took hundreds of photos of the interiors of the rooms and compared them to specific markers and characteristics noted in the background stills. While documenting the rooms, VPD investigators found the same poster that was partially visible in Bakker's video.

The poster was actually a 2003 calendar that was printed and distributed by a local NGO operating a medical clinic in Svay Pak. While in Cambodia, VPD investigators contacted both the medical clinic and the printing company, determining that these posters were first printed in November 2002. This evidence proved the offences occurred at least four months after the latest amendment to the sex tourism legislation.

On May 22, 2004, less than six months after the arrest of Donald Bakker in the DTES, VPD investigative team returned to Canada with evidence to secure Canada's first conviction for child sex tourism. ■

Salvation Army

Taken by those with intent to exploit him, a boy was identified and restored through collaboration with police, the community and Salvation Army personnel.

PARTNERS IN OUTREACH

JOINT APPROACH HELPS MOST VULNERABLE

By Dianna Bussey, director of the Correctional & Justice Services Department, Salvation Army

At 3 a.m. in the streets of Canada, very few offices or warm public places are open. It's not the best time of day for a person without a safe shelter to seek help, get a hot coffee or find a place to lay their head. Yet there are people out there and places open at this hour in cities around the world.

Emergency/crisis services that include shelters, outreach services, emergency health services and law enforcement are part of formal and informal partnerships that exist because they must. There is simply no other way forward other than to work together.

The Salvation Army and police agencies have a long history of partnership born out of being connected with society's most marginalized and often most vulnerable people. No one group or entity can provide it all. Partnerships are essential.

The types of collaborations between law enforcement and the Salvation Army are as varied as the number of responses. Police respond to any number of scenarios where a person has a number of needs. These might include a safe place to stay, food and rest, someone who will listen and come alongside in a difficult time, clothing and items to make a new start, spiritual care and counselling, accompaniment to court, and offering specific programs such as addiction treatment.

Police officers assist the Salvation Army in its mission, not only in being an avenue of connection with those who require practical assistance, but also in ways such as providing perspective as a part of numerous Salvation Army community and advisory councils, assisting in awareness and training activities, and general events and programs.

These partnerships are initiated from both organizations. And out of these relationships come increased respect, trust, the ability to expand each other's resiliency in difficult situations and some very innovative programs.

WINNIPEG EXPERIENCE

As an example of a collaborative initiative, the Salvation Army in Winnipeg, Man., benefits extensively from having the community and particularly law enforcement (Winnipeg Police Service and RCMP) regularly meet to discuss and advise on programming and initiatives related to exploitation through

prostitution and human trafficking.

This committee has been coming together regularly for more than 15 years and has identified some helpful basic principles when building collaborative partnerships:

- be specific and practical with objectives
- spend time listening
- be flexible — agree to disagree
- meet in a place of peace and safety
- have a balance between formality and informality
- build on and celebrate success
- be willing to help each other even if it does not benefit our organization

The advisory committee in Winnipeg is made up of personnel from the Salvation Army, Provincial Justice and Corrections, agency, group and community representatives, municipal and federal police specializing in the focus area, and those who have lived experience with having been exploited.

Although the people who make up the committee come from differing employment mandates such as law enforcement, corrections and varying degrees of theory and methods of service delivery, all work toward the common goal of helping to improve the lives of those they come into contact with.

The agency or organization that advisory committee members represent gives the service "in kind" and the representatives, while having those differing mandates, all come from a work ethic and personal value that believe in the dignity, respect and worth of all those victimized/exploited.

The benefits of this collaborative work are extensive for everyone involved. There's a sense of security in having a group meet to discuss gaps and learning from each other. Having a friendly face approach is so helpful in easing the path of communication when a situation that requires a referral to safe shelter, an income assistance worker, a counselling agency, addiction treatment programming or support group to name a few examples, presents itself. And there's the ability for members to work as a team in navigating all the systems for best outcomes for vulnerable persons.

CHALLENGES

Along with benefits, there are also challenges such as the high turnover of designates, particularly with law enforcement. It takes time to build relationships and the frequent movement of people can be disruptive although understood to be necessary. The Salvation Army also has a rotation of personnel so the embedding of an initiative into the general workings of the organizations is important.

Another challenge comes from the very nature of what law enforcement is called to do, such as responding to a person needing assistance today who was arrested by the same police officer last week. It's important that we all recognize the complexities involved in these relationships.

Earlier this year, to gain a better understanding of what was working and what could be improved in our working relationships to assist vulnerable people, two questions were informally asked. They were posed of some law enforcement and front-line service providers within and outside of the Salvation Army.

What do you need from each other when assisting those victimized by exploitation?

What do you need from each other to create and maintain positive working relationships?

The answers are candid and most are highly similar. Salvation Army personnel, others within the helping community and law enforcement all request when assisting victimized and vulnerable people that each have:

- unbiased support to meet people without judgment or personal/moral bias towards the situation
- mutual understanding of the objectives of assisting a vulnerable person
- respect confidentiality
- a collaborative response
- increased resources are needed across all sectors to support vulnerable and exploited persons

There were also similarities around what's needed from each other to maintain positive working relationships:

- an understanding of the boundaries and limits of policies and procedures of the organizations
- open communication to enable consideration for each organization's realities and to better understand why the organizations act in a certain way

There were specific responses from law enforcement concerning what's further needed to assist those exploited:

- increased availability and flexibility of resources and access or ability to refer persons to multiple services that best fit the person seeking assistance
- increased help in seeking and managing the resources for vulnerable persons

GLOBAL APPROACH

Just as Winnipeg's collaborations between Salvation Army and police agencies exist in cities and towns across Canada, these partnerships also exist internationally.

Exploitation is rampant in cities the world over. In one red light district, a young girl who was exploited found restoration and healing with the help of the Salvation Army. This district is the location of a concentrated number of brothels, where approximately 9,000 people are involved in prostitution. Even more alarming is that this number includes many children who are sexually exploited and trafficked.

The Salvation Army helps provide care for those women and particularly children who have been rescued by law enforcement. The care is holistic and includes safe places, healthy meals, access to education and skills training, empowerment and social networking all within a warm and caring community.

As another example, a boy taken by those with the intent to exploit him as a herd boy in a neighbouring country was identified and restored through collaboration with police, the community and Salvation Army personnel.

The Salvation Army is very grateful for our police partners, including the formal partnerships around tables brainstorming for better ways of working and collaborating to serve those who are marginalized and equally grateful for the informal partnerships struck at 3 a.m. to help a woman with very few options and nowhere to sleep. ▪

Dianna Bussey is a social worker who has worked in various capacities at the Salvation Army in Winnipeg since 1992. She is also a consultant to the Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory's Social Services on Human Trafficking, which is part of the organization's international initiatives against human trafficking.

VITAL CONNECTION

AUSTRALIAN LIAISON OFFICERS KEY IN GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

It was like a Hollywood mystery. The 13-metre 'ghost' yacht, JaReVe, lay beached on a tiny island in the South Pacific. Inside, Tongan police found a badly decomposed body. Further investigation revealed more than 200 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the hull of the boat bound for Australia.

But the beached vessel was no mystery to police. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had alerted Australian authorities that the JaReVe had departed Ecuador en route to Australia with two crew members. What happened exactly to the ill-fated JaReVe, or the second crew member, is a mystery.

There's nothing really unusual about the massive drug shipment either. The cocaine on the boat had a street value of $116 million in Australia. It's easy for a lone yacht to avoid detection in the large expanses of the Pacific Ocean and the criminal rewards are massive.

The JaReVe wasn't so successful. Law enforcement tracked the yacht from Ecuador to the Cook Islands. At this point, the JaReVe dropped off the police radar and sparked a massive search to find the yacht before it arrived somewhere in Australia. Inevitably, it ended its fateful journey on Luatatifo in the northern Vava'u province of Tonga.

The Australian connection to South American drugs isn't something that looms large in Australian consciousness. The world of Mexican drug lords and firefights between warring drug syndicates seems remote. Like the JaReVe, it sounds more like a movie than Australian reality.

Yet changing circumstances are making Australia a prized destination for South American drugs. A single kilogram of cocaine can be bought for $2,000 in Colombia. That same kilogram of cocaine can sell for $250,000 in Australia. That economy of scale is a significant motivator to drug syndicates.

Drugs, of course, aren't the only problem in the Americas. Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commander David Sharpe says crime trends are cyclical. Counterterrorism was an important focus in the post-September 11 world and has a new focus in response to conflict zones such as Syria and Afghanistan.

Cybercrime is another pressing issue in North America and shares an equal focus with organized crime. The region is also the source and transit point of transnational crime such as money laundering, high-tech and tech-enabled crime and online child sexual exploitation. But drugs in the Americas are always big business for criminals.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The AFP's International Network is a critical element in combatting this transnational crime from the Americas. AFP liaison officers are located in Washington and Los Angeles in the United States and in Bogota, Columbia. A further counterterrorism liaison officer is located in Washington. The AFP also has the Police Advisor United Nations in New York.

The liaison officers provide a vital operational link with international law enforcement agencies — not only in the Americas, but in 36 positions around the world and with INTERPOL and Europol. The primary role is to develop and maintain relationships with the host countries.

Importantly, the network gives the AFP the ability to obstruct organized crime offshore and at its source. Developing real ties with host countries enables and simplifies intelligence-sharing in a way not possible by contacting people unknown on the other side of the world. Host countries also then have a direct point of contact for their own enquiries from the AFP.

"The DEA and the FBI have a strong presence in South America," says Sharpe. "The AFP leverage off the strength of these partnerships in the region to disrupt organized crime syndicates at the source. The key is to be able to develop and maintain those relationships at the highest levels of those agencies."

Partnerships are more than just having a point of contact. The network engages at the highest levels with host governments. AFP members take part in discussion on strategy and the response to organized crime. The AFP's Bogota post has a Transnational Crime Team that includes 10 Colombian police officers.

These are all opportunities enabled by the International Network. In terms of a whole-of-government response, the liaison network in the Americas is closely aligned with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Attorney Generals Department and Immigration. This enables further opportunities for relationship-building between Australia and the host nations.

BOGOTA POST, COLOMBIA

The relationship between the AFP's Bogota Post and South American law enforcement is strong. The AFP was recently welcomed into the

The JaReVe ended its fateful journey from Equador to Australia in the middle of the South Pacific. The yacht and its massive drug shipment were on the radar of international police.

Australian Federal Police

American Police Community (AMERIPOL) as one of 21 observer agencies. AMERIPOL is essentially modelled on police organizations such as Europol and INTERPOL.

Senior Liaison Officer David Berston, in Bogota, says the seven-year-old AMERIPOL is laying the foundations for a bigger and better future.

"In the past, the law enforcement response has been quite fragmented within this region and working in isolation. Now, through this forum, they are starting to work together," says Berston.

Fighting the drug cartels certainly has its challenges. It's a continually morphing environment where, Berston explains, you squeeze the balloon in one place and it pops out sideways somewhere else. "The quantities here are ridiculous," he says. "Just about daily they're seizing hundreds of kilograms of drugs in various parts of this region."

Successful efforts by Colombian law enforcement have contributed to the displacement of coca cultivation and cocaine production to Peru and Bolivia. According to estimates by U.S. Joint Interagency Taskforce South, up to 23 per cent of South American cocaine production is now emanating from Peru. A portion of the cocaine produced in Peru is being shipped to Australia, but the end destination for the bulk of Peruvian cocaine is unclear.

Ecuador, the departure point of the JaReVe, is becoming increasingly important for law enforcement because of the displacement effect of counter-narcotic operations in Colombia. Driven by the profit margins, availability and the often poor socioeconomic conditions in much of still-developing Colombia and South America in general, the rewards are high and the risks are, at least for the time being, relatively low.

"It's very simple, a lot of these people are very poor and with Colombia being the historical area for cocaine production, there's a significant criminal element in the community that takes advantage of the situation that these people are in with drugs and crime being an easy avenue to make money," Berston says.

The successes of law enforcement, both foreign and domestic, combined with focused government policy has effectively limited the Colombian-based syndicates' ability to operate at the levels they previously enjoyed. This, however, has not eradicated or decreased the drug problem within the region, it has just moved it elsewhere — the 'balloon effect.'

Australian Federal Police

More than 200 kilograms of cocaine were hidden in the hull of the JaReVe. The South American drugs were bound for Australia.

In this case, other countries in the region, such as Peru, are becoming significant producers of cocaine. Ecuador has become a significant trans-shipment point. However, those countries don't have the same government policies, funding and support for law enforcement so the problem intensifies.

Meanwhile, the never-ending attempts to export drugs from South America continue. "We get intelligence reports weekly," says Berston. "Australia is being targeted by criminal groups using whatever methods are available — from small craft, sea containers, couriers through the airstream and in some cases using corrupt insiders to facilitate the transport of drug to our country."

Fast boats are used to take drugs offshore to upload to other small craft or container ships and avoid taking drugs through ports. The emergence of semisubmersibles and submarines are just one further criminal innovation to ship drugs in sea lanes.

"It's not just always cocaine," Berston says. "Methamphetamine, heroine and synthetic drugs are all produced and transported from this region and those enterprises are growing. It's ill conceived to focus on and target specific commodities like cocaine. The syndicates are just about making money and whatever commodity suits will be used towards that goal."

This is the importance of AMERIPOL. Berston says the opportunity for collaboration between the 30 member countries and 21 observer countries and organizations, including U.S. and European agencies, can't be overstated. He's hugely optimistic about the innovations within AMERIPOL that are just around the corner.

"The Spanish are currently developing an information-sharing database that member nations will link to, similar to the INTERPOL database. "It's going to be invaluable when it gets up and everyone starts using it," Berston says.

Another innovation is collaborative training. "A lot of this is about co-operation and collaboration. The joint training is where they're really going to get a good purchase on what they need to do to start fighting these bigger cartels. This forum is enabling them to start working together."

A unified law enforcement response in the South and Central Americas spells bad news for criminal syndicates. A collaborative offensive on cartels would circumvent the balloon bubble effect created by the success of law enforcement and government policy in a country such as Colombia. It may just burst the balloon altogether. ■

This article is printed courtesy of AFP Platypus *magazine.*

MAKING AN IMPACT

CANADIAN POLICE JOIN UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

By Martine Courage, RCMP National Communication Services

With more than a quarter-century of experience in international peace operations, Canadian police are in high demand to contribute to international programs. In fact, their hard work and dedication over the years has helped Canada earn a reputation for leadership in peacekeeping.

Currently, through the RCMP's International Policing Development (IPD) office, Canadian police are involved in three unique partnerships that are having global impacts.

First, they are helping the United Nations (UN) boost the number of female police officers in peacekeeping missions.

Second, they are part of an international roster that will assist Cambodia with investigating crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge era.

And finally, they are contributing to a one-of-a-kind peace operations development program for senior police leaders in collaboration with several European countries.

POLICEWOMEN IN MISSION

In the fall of 2014, seven Canadian police officers from four police services were in Africa as part of the UN's all-female Selection Assistance and Assessment Team (SAAT) training project, aimed at helping more policewomen to serve on UN peacekeeping missions.

The UN's SAAT travels to police-contributing countries for a week to evaluate police applicants for UN missions on French or English comprehension, report writing, shooting and driving skills, understanding the UN context and passing a job interview.

In 2013, as part of its efforts to recruit more women for missions, the UN launched all-female SAAT assessments. After initially low pass rates during SAAT testing, the UN approached Canada to provide instructors to help implement a two-week training course. This would allow candidates to hone the skills required for mission before being tested by the UN SAAT.

Between September and November 2014, the seven specially trained police officers, from the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), le Service de police de la Ville de Québec, the Ontario Provincial Police and the RCMP, travelled to Rwanda, Burkina Faso and Cameroon to provide this training, working with colleagues from the UN's Police Division.

Overall, the instructors worked with some 400 policewomen from these three countries.

"Having previously served on an African mission, I understood the need to have more female police officers in mission, for example, to attend to women or children who are victims of crime," explains S/Sgt. Marc Charron, who was an instructor in Rwanda and Burkina Faso. "I was proud to be a part of this project, which resulted in more female officers deploying to peacekeeping missions."

To date, the project has yielded impressive results. Pass rates increased from 35 per cent to 80 per cent of candidates in Rwanda and from 36 per cent to 80 per cent in Burkina Faso. (Results from Cameroon are still being processed.)

"Through this training, we were able not only to share our expertise with these policewomen, but also give them the confidence to serve on a peace operation and represent their country, just like their male counterparts," says Cst. Johanne Lesage of the SPVM, who was an instructor in all three countries. "It was an amazing experience to be able to make such a positive impact on them."

The training has indeed made a difference in increasing female participation: the UN has initiated deployment for 90 applicants from Rwanda and 16 from Burkina Faso, and is considering deployment for five candidates from Cameroon.

The RCMP is currently reviewing this project to determine the role of Canadian police in such initiatives in the future.

MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

Based in Switzerland, Justice Rapid Response (JRR) is an intergovernmental organization that manages the rapid deploy-

Montreal City Police Cst. Johanne Lesage mentors Rwandan policewomen on driving a 4x4.

Cpl. Tan Chang

ment of criminal justice professionals from a stand-by roster. Coming from every region of the world, these professionals are trained in the investigation of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Since 2012, five Canadian police officers have successfully completed JRR's Investigating Cases of SGBV in International Crimes course. Candidates attend a two-week intensive training session to become part of the JRR - UN Women Special SGBV roster. Two more Canadian police officers will be attending the JRR training in the near future.

These officers can now be called upon for rapid deployment to assist in investigating human rights or international criminal violations, including gender-based violence offences around the world.

In October 2014, JRR called upon Canada to contribute international crime investigators to assist the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in investigating crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide allegedly committed in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979 during the Khmer Rouge regime. Three candidates from the JRR roster (from the Ottawa Police Service, Vancouver Police Department and RCMP) have been selected and were deployed in January 2015.

Cpl. Tai Chang

RCMP Cpl. Tai Chang (centre background) and S/Sgt. Marc Charron (right background) verify shooting targets during training.

LEADERSHIP ROLES IN MISSIONS

Many countries such as Canada boast dedicated and talented police officers who want to assist in emerging and developing nations. However, they may sometimes find themselves at a competitive disadvantage when applying to international missions due to their lack of exposure to multinational and cultural issues.

To help remedy this issue, the RCMP has been involved over the past three years in the Senior Strategic Advisors' Master Class on police reform in an international and security sector reform context.

This innovative program prepares senior police advisors for strategic-level international deployments by providing them with the skills, knowledge and aptitude to contribute to effective and accountable policing.

The concept of the Master Class was initiated in 2010 by the National Police of the Netherlands and the International Security Sector Advisory Team of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces in Switzerland. The two countries approached Canada, the United Kingdom and Norway to collaborate on developing an international development program for senior police leaders. Each country was asked to contribute curriculum based on an area of expertise and to take turns hosting the two-week program.

First piloted in the United Kingdom in 2011 and 2012, the sessions are now held annually, with sessions held in Switzerland in 2013 and in Norway in October 2014.

The program is designed to give participants a thorough knowledge of security sector reform principles in order to be able to adapt those principles to a variety of local contexts. It teaches strategies to stay grounded, retain a strategic perspective and maximize effectiveness when operating in a variety of local contexts, taking into account national and organizational culture.

Participants consider specific cases and their own experiences to identify skills (including interpersonal skills), attributes and approaches that are helpful when acting as a strategic police advisor in an international police reform context.

Four Canadian police officers attended the latest session, including RCMP Superintendents Andris Zarins (director of IPD), Joanne Crampton and Guy Rook, as well as Deputy Chief Sylvain Lemay of the SPVM. Candidates from Australia, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Egypt also participated.

"The Master Class created an environment where participants and facilitators could share best practices and experiences, building on the high level of skills and competencies they already possessed," explains Zarins. "By learning about both the political and technical aspects of security sector reform, we are now well-equipped to meet the challenging task of transitioning from national police officers to international advisors."

To date, more than 80 delegates from 10 countries have participated. The program also has a proven track record, with alumni having assumed senior police advisor posts following the Master Class. For example, Deputy Chief Lemay was recently deployed to the UN Mission in Haiti.

Through the Canadian Police Arrangement, the RCMP continues to remain actively involved both in developing the Master Class and identifying Canadian police candidates to attend future sessions. The 2015 Master Class will be hosted by the Netherlands. ■

EVEN CLEAN FUEL CAN BE DIRTY

MULTI-AGENCY SHARING STOPS FRAUD SCHEME

By Laurie White, RCMP Communications Services

Last December marked the end of an elaborate, multi-jurisdictional investigation into a complex fraud scheme involving suspects from the U.S. and Australia with a Canadian connection.

"For three years a portion of my team's efforts have revolved around the ongoing investigation into fraud against government environmental incentive programs," says S/Sgt. Trevor Dusterhoft of the RCMP's Federal Serious and Organized Crime (FSOC) Unit in British Columbia. "Normally, people might say 'You're investigating biodiesel? But that's green energy!' Everybody thinks that's a good thing. But we learned that producing biofuel isn't as easy as it may appear." It isn't always squeaky clean, either.

In 2011, the ecoEnergy for Biofuels Program, administered by Natural Resources Canada (NRC), received funding and began offering an operating incentive to producers of biodiesel based on production and sales levels. City-Farm Biofuel Ltd in Delta, B.C., negotiated an incentive agreement with the NRC under the ecoEnergy program.

Based on a tip, the FSOC unit learned that City-Farm Biofuel was grossly inflating the accounting records of its purchases of feedstock — oils used for producing biofuel. While the company was producing very small amounts of biofuel, about 20,000 litres per month, its claims were closer to 600,000 litres per month.

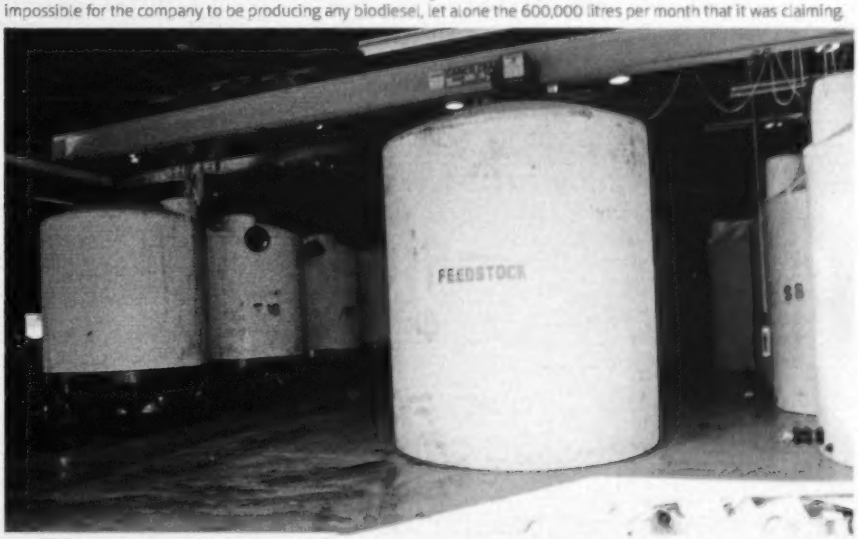
The fraudulent records were being used to supplement legitimate purchases as well as sales to non-arm's length companies including USA Global eMarketing (GEM) all in an effort to maximize the ecoEnergy incentive claims.

"These guys were essentially circling the border with the same truck. They would claim they were coming in with feedstock oils, but in fact it was coming in with fuel," says Dusterhoft. "In fact, the truck driver wouldn't even unload. He would just come in with fuel, they'd tell him to just sit for a few hours, then he'd take off with the fuel again."

Curiously, the fictitious sales to GEM were far in excess of those required to support the fraudulent incentive claims. The suspects operating within Canada hailed from the United States and Australia.

Following further investigation, RCMP investigators learned that the suspects were also conducting a multi-million dollar fraud against the United States government. The U.S. government program provided monetary incentives for the production and use of biodiesel. Both producers and importers can generate renewable identification numbers (RINS) for each gallon of biodiesel they produce or import, and sell or trade these on the market.

When the RCMP conducted its search warrant, the entire City-Farm Biofuel plant was found disassembled. It was impossible for the company to be producing any biodiesel, let alone the 600,000 litres per month that it was claiming.



RCMP Federal Serious and Organized Crime unit, B.C.

RCMP investigators contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. Secret Service Vancouver attachés once they learned that both agencies had unrelated investigations into the same suspect. The FBI Vancouver attaché immediately placed RCMP investigators in touch with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criminal division and investigational information was openly shared. This multi-agency information sharing, which also included the U.S. Homeland Security, resulted in the determination that U.S. authorities were being deceived.

Contrary to submitted documentation, the high volume of biodiesel being imported by GEM wasn't being produced and sold internationally by City-Farm Biofuel Ltd. in Canada. In fact, the supporting records were exaggerated in an effort to deceive program administrators. This deception allowed GEM, as a supposed legitimate importer of biodiesel, to make lucrative claims under the U.S. incentive programs.

This highly complex scheme involved millions of dollars being defrauded from both U.S. and Canadian government agency programs.

On July 22, 2014, Nathan Stoliar of Australia pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering, two counts of wire fraud and one count of making false statements under the *Clean Air Act*.

In January 2014, the indictment involving the biodiesel case against James Jariv of Las Vegas was unsealed. Jariv is awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy, wire and mail fraud and money laundering in relation to the biodiesel fraud. On November 15, 2014, Jariv was arrested in Las Vegas for his role in an unrelated timeshare resale fraud.

"The successful conclusion of this file was a direct result of our effective interagency partnerships," says Dusterhoft. "We simply can't function independently. Criminals operate with no regard for international borders and boundaries so it's absolutely critical that police build and maintain relationships with law enforcement personnel in other jurisdictions in order to enforce the laws of our respective countries." ■

just THE FACTS

GRAFFITI

Graffiti vandals may believe their actions harm no one. But the reality is graffiti sends the message that nobody cares, it attracts other forms of crime and it decreases residents' feelings of safety. Graffiti is also costly, draining tax dollars for cleanup, and results in reduced property values, business growth and tourism. The following facts paint a clear picture of the ugly side of graffiti.

The term graffiti comes from the Greek word graphein, which means "to write." Graffiti ranges from simple, one-colour monikers called "tags" repeated on many surfaces, to complex compositions of several colours.

Graffiti Hurts, a grassroots community education program in the United States, describes three main types of graffiti: gang, hate and generic (non-threatening messages like "Bobby loves Suzy").

According to the U.S. National Council to Prevent Delinquency (NCPD), about 80 per cent of graffiti are "tagger" or "hip-hop" style, five per cent are large visuals and 10 per cent, or more, are gang related.

The NCPD describes a "tag" as a graffiti vandal's moniker applied quickly and repetitively. A "throw-up" is a more elaborate tag, usually done in two or more colours. "Pieces," short for "masterpieces," are large, detailed multi-colour drawings that may take an hour or more to complete.

Unlike tagger graffiti, the NCPD reports that gang graffiti is used to mark gang territory, list members, offer drugs or contraband for sale or send warnings to rivals. Gang tags may include letters, symbols or numbers known only by gangs and law enforcement.

Graffitihurts.org reports that most American studies show the majority of "taggers" are male between the ages of 12 and 21, while approximately 15 per cent of graffiti vandals are young women.

Under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the creation of graffiti is considered vandalism. Vandals can be charged with "mischief under or over $5,000."

Graffiti is the most common type of property vandalism, accounting for 35 per cent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Graffiti vandalism is a bylaw infraction in cities across Canada. In major cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary, property owners are required by law to remove illegal markings.

In 2013, the *Globe and Mail* reported on the City of Toronto's comprehensive graffiti management plan. The program shifts the focus from simple graffiti removal to prevention, largely through youth and community outreach programs.

Graffitihurts.org reports that the City of Phoenix, AZ, spends more than $6 million annually on graffiti cleanup, Las Vegas, NV, spends about $3 million annually, and Chicago, IL, budgeted $6.5 million in 2006.

Ideological or hate graffiti is any racial, religious or cultural slur. According to Statistics Canada, of the 1,401 hate crimes reported in Canada in 2010, the most common type was mischief, in the form of graffiti or vandalism.

There are four primary motivating factors for graffiti vandalism: fame, rebellion, self-expression and power, according to graffitihurts.org.

According to a 2009 CBC News report, legal graffiti walls are sanctioned walls intended to reduce unwanted graffiti in neighbourhoods. While well intentioned, legal walls often appear to work at first, but after a period of time, the surrounding areas also become covered with graffiti.

The City of Vancouver's Integrated Graffiti Management Program reports that while legal walls can act as a deterrent to graffiti, in the last couple of years, many Vancouver murals have been vandalized.

— Compiled by Katherine Aldred

SEEING AND SURVIVING

UNDERSTANDING ACUTE STRESS RESPONSES

Our eyes are our primary survival sense but they evolved long before firearms were created. Perceptual distortions under acute stress can radically affect officer performance, and understanding them is critical. Ret. Sgt. Jeff Quail, a 25-year veteran of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), has made that his mission. He spoke to Katherine Aldred about the limits of human reaction, and how to mitigate them.

WHAT'S YOUR TRAINING BACKGROUND?

I was at the [WPS] training academy as the assistant officer safety co-ordinator and then ultimately as the officer safety co-ordinator. Which placed me in charge of our defensive tactics training and weapons training. I now work as the full-time director of research and development for Setcan Corporation.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT VISUAL DISTORTIONS UNDER ACUTE STRESS?

From a physiological perspective, the theory is that when we induce acute stress, the sympathetic nervous system is activated and a massive release of hormones occurs. Everyone's most familiar with adrenaline. Adrenaline has been shown to act upon the ciliary muscle of the eye by causing the muscle to relax. When it relaxes, it causes the lens of the eye to flatten. When that happens, our eye is better designed for seeing far than seeing near. So from a physiological perspective, we might, under stress, have the inability to acutely see the sights of our weapons.

THAT'S RATHER CRITICAL. WHAT ELSE CAN HAPPEN UNDER STRESS?

The flip side of the physiological perspective is the visual cognitive processing side. A lot of research has been done on what's called a weapons-focus effect. Under stress, some individuals will focus intently or fixate on the weapon itself as opposed to the centre mass of the target. But we're still in our infancy of understanding precisely how these and other visual distortions occur.

HOW CAN POLICE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE?

Number one is that we have to accept these changes are a reality. We still can't predict what distortions will happen and when they will happen, but we must accept that there's a probability they'll happen when an individual is experiencing acute stress. Once we accept that, then we can say, "OK, how do we prepare the individual for this possibility so they can perform better?"

AND HOW CAN POLICE DO THAT?

There are three approaches from a training perspective. The first is a stress-congruent approach. We know that an individual who's attacked suddenly and spontaneously at close distance will not be able to insert a trained response. They're going to have an instinctual, autonomic reflexive reaction that's going to occur at the onset of the attack. This reflex to move away or pull their limbs away — the natural flinch response — is going to occur before they can even get to the part of the brain where that training exists. So with stress-congruent, we accept the realities that we can't change our natural response. This is what you're going to do, you're going to flinch, this is how your body is going to behave and then after this occurs, we can insert the trained response.

Next are stress-mitigation techniques. The less stress reaction you have, the fewer hormones are released into your body, and the less potential there is for distortions to occur. There are various stress-mitigation techniques that can be taught, but it's easier said than done. If you're scared of heights and go on a roller coaster and are told, "Hey, don't get scared," well, when you're going over the top of a big drop off you're going to have a reaction. But this approach is more useful for controlling arousal that's unfolding slowly than controlling a sudden event.

The last method is the principle of overlearning. And that's looking at critical items that the officer needs to be able to perform, and doing so many repetitions of that action that it moves to an unconscious competent level. Take a stoppage in a firearm. Somebody pulls a trigger, it doesn't go bang and they go through their stoppage drill to get that firearm working again. So we do so much repetition of it that we no longer have to use the conscious part of our brain to say, "OK, I've got to tap the bottom of the magazine and then I've gotta rack it, and then I've gotta ... " it's just going to happen automatically.

WHERE CAN OFFICERS LEARN MORE?

There are a lot of phenomenal law enforcement trainers and military trainers and phenomenal academics that have an incredible expertise in this area. And I would encourage individuals who have an interest or who want this type of training to seek them out. ▪

Eye-tracking technology can show where someone's eyes are moving and help identify, for example, if their eyes are fixated on the weapon rather than the centre-mass of the target.

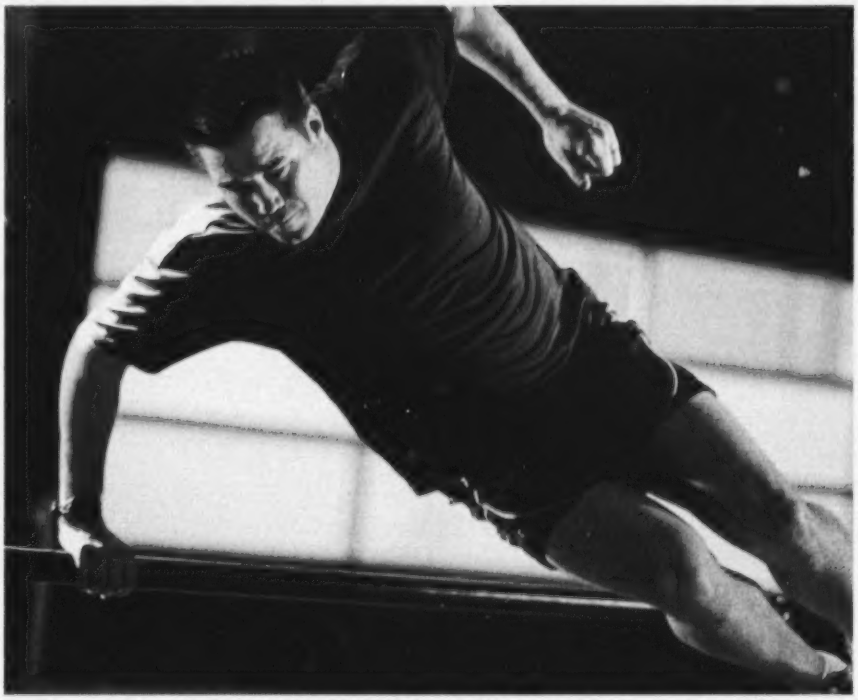
Setcan Corp.

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

RCMP CONDITIONING PROGRAM GETS RESULTS

By Caroline Bourgeois-Nolet, RCMP communications strategist

A University of Iowa research study recently examined the physical activity level of police officers in the United States. The study found the on-duty activity level of officers to be low and further linked the sedentary nature of police work and the stress of the job to increased health risks. The following article is the third in a Gazette *series outlining what police officers and agencies are doing to help officers reduce these risks and stay healthy.*



RCMP

The Functional Strength & Conditioning Program is designed to help RCMP officers improve their fitness and prepare them for the physical challenges of operational duties.

Two RCMP Division Fitness and Lifestyle Advisors (DFLAs) have made it their mission to help RCMP officers and employees get fit — by making it as easy as possible.

DFLAs are exercise physiologists who work with thousands of RCMP officers and employees across the country. The goal of the program is to improve the current fitness level of participants and prepare them for the challenges of daily active living, operational duties and performance requirements.

Luc Poirier in Quebec and Sylvain Lemelin in Manitoba designed the Functional Strength & Conditioning Program so that all 30,000 RCMP employees across the country could have access to a quick and effective fitness program.

The training plans developed by Poirier and Lemelin require minimal time and equipment and can be performed just about anywhere. The four-level fitness program caters to all skill sets, whether participants haven't worked out in a while or are in good shape and want to increase their performance.

Level 1 is geared to individuals returning to regular physical activity and active living. Level 2 is for enthusiasts looking to improve their fitness level and achieve minimal physical requirements for peace officer duties. Level 3 and Level 4 are intended for people who are already in good shape and seeking to achieve new athletic or performance goals.

RCMP officers who have difficulty completing the Physical Abilities Requirements Evaluation (PARE) under the four-minute mark should focus on Level 2. The program was tried and tested by RCMP employees in several provinces to assess whether it contributed to an improved PARE performance.

The results were promising, with all target groups posting better times. A total of 11 women and nine men, with average ages of 40.3 and 42.6 respectively, from two provinces took part in the pilot project. In Winnipeg, Man., the men and women who participated shaved an average of 64.2 seconds and 59.9 seconds respectively off their PARE time after 12 weeks of training. The five men and eight women who completed the program also lost an average of 0.83 kilograms and 3.04 kilograms, respectively.

Depending on each participant's fitness level, simply getting up from a chair or climbing a flight of stairs can be a challenge. For those who are already active, the trick is to introduce new exercises in an effort to reach new heights. The program is designed to help police officers and all Canadians push themselves and improve their physical health. Workouts and exercises are simple and safe, and guarantee results across the board.

Unlike other fitness routines on the market, the Functional Strength & Conditioning Program is evidence-based and developed to prevent injuries and overtraining, while still maximizing results.

The program also aims to physically prepare future recruits for both their arrival to and graduation from Depot, the RCMP's training academy in Regina, Sask. It was designed to be shared with law enforcement partners, United Nations missions and various specialized units, and used as a community-based tool.

Anyone can download the program booklet to a tablet or smartphone, free of charge, from iTunes or Google Play.

By giving participants the extra tools they need, the DFLAs hope to encourage employees, along with their friends and family, to make fitness a priority and maintain a healthy lifestyle. ■

RESEARCH AND RESPONSE

POLICE CONSIDERATIONS IN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS

By Hunter Martaindale, Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Centre, Texas

Active shooter events are tragic to the victims, their families, the immediate community and the nation. However, little to no research into the events had been accomplished until recently.

Researchers at the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response (ALERRT) program and Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, initially began analyzing active shooter events in the United States following the first attack on the U.S. Army base at Fort Hood in 2009. At the time, there were no systematic analyses of active shooters. Their efforts resulted in multiple publications that instituted a thorough methodological approach to data collection.

Following the 2012 attack on Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), acting on a directive from the Attorney General, undertook the task of compiling and analyzing active shooter events. In turn, the FBI worked with researchers from ALERRT and Texas State University to complete the study released in September 2014. This partnership allowed for a deeper analysis of active shooter events.

The goal of the study was to provide federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with the most accurate data regarding active shooter events. The agencies can use these data to better understand how to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from these tragic events.

WHAT THE DATA SHOW

In total, the research team identified 160 incidents occurring between the years 2000 and 2013 that met the federal definition of an active shooter event — "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area." The research team gathered official police reports from the responding agencies to have the most accurate data possible.

The analysis revealed several trends and informative data points.

1. Active shooter events appear to be increasing in frequency. An average of 6.4 events occurred during the first seven years studied, while an average of 16.4 events occurred during the last seven years. There was a single event in 2001; however, 2010 had the highest total with 26 events.

2. No geographic trends were found. The events occurred throughout the nation.

3. The events ended quickly. Of the events where duration could be calculated, 69 per cent were over within five minutes.

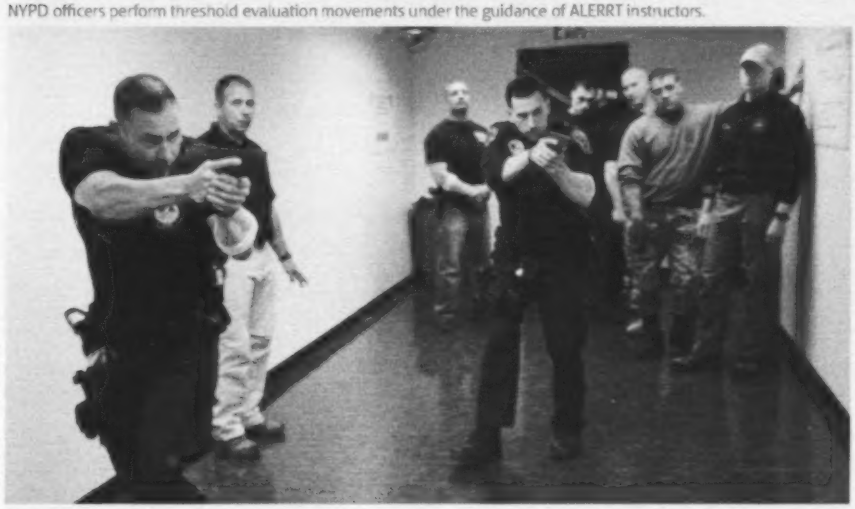
4. As a testament to the speed of events, 60 per cent of the events ended before police arrived on scene.

5. The study found 1,043 victims. Of these, 486 died and 557 were wounded.

6. There is no true "profile" of an active shooter. Only six shooters were female. However, shooters ranged from age 13 to 88. Additionally, all major races were represented at approximately the same ratio found in the population.

7. Businesses were the most prevalent attack location with a little over 45 per cent of events occurring at a retail store, office or warehouse. Approximately 24 per cent of events occurred at schools.

NYPD officers perform threshold evaluation movements under the guidance of ALERRT instructors.



Diane Hendricks, ALERRT

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

The most interesting and useful outcomes from the data are seen when analyzing the event resolutions. The report found the majority of events (55 per cent) ended before law enforcement officers arrive on scene.

The 55 per cent can be broken down further: 37 per cent ended with the shooter committing suicide, fleeing or moving to another location to commit suicide. Civilians stopped the shooter the remaining 18 per cent of the time. The 45 per cent of events ending after police officers arrive on scene can be broken down to shooter- or police-initiated outcomes.

Sixteen percent of the time, the shooter commits suicide or surrenders to law enforcement. The remaining 29 per cent of events end due to law enforcement intervention, with the majority of these resulting in the officers shooting the shooter (22 per cent).

In 45 active shooter events, law enforcement exchanged gunfire with the shooter. Twenty-one of these events resulted in five law enforcement officers being killed and 28 wounded. With 72 events (45 per cent) ending after police arrive on scene, this equates to officers being wounded or killed in action 29.2 per cent of the time when they arrive to

an active shooter still in progress. This makes an active shooter response the most dangerous call an officer will respond to.

RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

The researchers believe law enforcement officers can benefit from the results of the study in two key ways. First, the speed of the events illustrates the need for agencies to undertake a realistic examination of their response policies. In the wake of the attack on Columbine High School, law enforcement agencies adjusted their policies away from establishing a perimeter and waiting on a SWAT team.

Agencies began to train patrol officers to form teams and advance to the threat. With an average duration of only five minutes, every second counts. Smaller or rural law enforcement agencies may experience slower response times due to a lower officer density. These, and larger agencies, may evaluate the necessity to train officers for solo-officer entries instead of requiring officers to wait for a team to form.

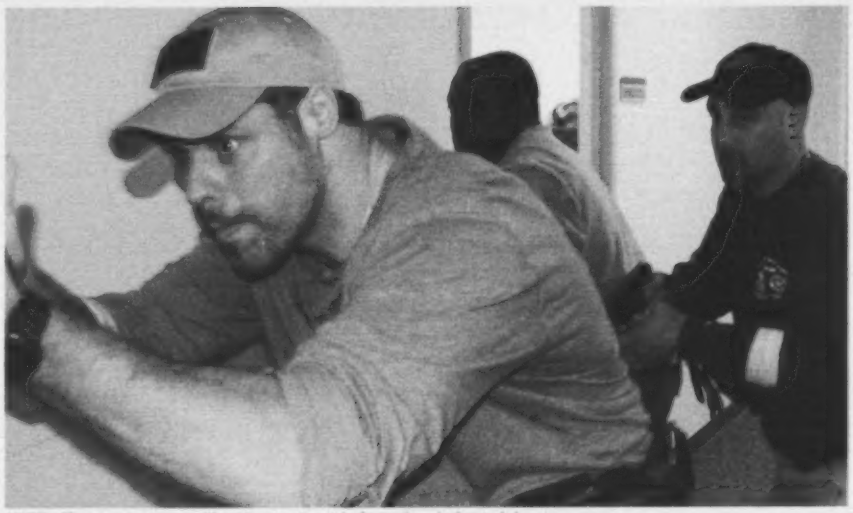
Second, the most recent advancement in active shooter training for law enforcement officers revolves around the facilitation of medical treatment. Recall that 1,043 civilians were killed or wounded during the 160 events. Law enforcement officers will be the first responders. Once the officers have stopped the killing, they should be prepared to help stop the dying.

In order to be prepared, it's suggested that agencies train and equip patrol officers with medical kits. The medical kits should contain tourniquets and coagulate chemicals to halt the loss of blood. In addition to medical training, law enforcement agencies should cross-train with local fire and EMS agencies. These agencies have more advanced medical knowledge and strong communication between law enforcement, fire and EMS saves lives.

The importance of integration for these agencies is best seen when analyzing the Aurora, Colo., theater attack. Law enforcement staged in one parking lot while fire and EMS staged a few hundred yards away. Neither communicated well and the police officers ended up transporting patients in the back of their cars. This overloaded the closest emergency rooms and interfered with the hospitals ability to care for the influx of wounded.

CIVILIAN RESPONSE

The resolution data also present key policies in regards to civilian response to active shooter events. Remember that 55 per cent of active shooter events concluded before police arrived on scene. Twenty-nine of these events (18 per cent) ended because of direct civilian action.



Diane Hendricks, ALERRT

NYPD officers move to an active shooter threat in formation during training.

ALERRT has developed a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course to train law enforcement officers how to teach civilians to properly respond to a dynamic situation to save themselves. The core of this training is a basic system known as Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD).

Avoid. The first response is to get away from the threat. If it's possible, civilians should leave the area in which the shooting is occurring to avoid the shooter. It's important they move far enough away from the location of the event to be safe. In the case of a fire, this is often across the street. In an active shooter event, more distance (often a few blocks) is usually required to ensure both that the shooter can't shoot at civilians from inside the building, and to ensure that if the shooter moves from his current location, civilians don't end up in the line of fire again.

Deny. If it's unsafe to leave the current location to avoid the shooter, the next step is to take actions that will deny him access to the location. This is not hiding. It's doing whatever it takes to prevent the shooter from getting into the location. The simplest action, and one that has been extremely effective in the active shooter events studied, is to lock the door to the room. In the attacks that have occurred in the U.S., no shooter has breached a locked door. Locks that can be secured without the use of a key will be more useful in a crisis than locks that require one (putting a key into a lock is a fine motor activity that will likely be impaired in an active shooter attack).

Not all locations have doors that can be locked. If the door opens inward to the room, furniture can be used to barricade the door. Doorstops or other items can be wedged between the door and floor or frame to prevent it from opening. Unfortunately, if the door opens outward (which is commonly required under modern building codes) and does not have a lock, denying access becomes much more difficult. It might be possible to use a rope to tie the door handle to something else, but this will be difficult to do under stress.

Defend. If civilians are unable to avoid the shooter or prevent him from gaining access to the location, there is only one option left. They must defend themselves. There are many active shooter events where the people on the scene were able to subdue the attacker and save their own lives. There are different techniques, including swarming the shooter, advantageous positioning at a door entry to surprise the shooter, and using any object to protect oneself.

CONCLUSION

These key findings and policy considerations stemmed from a systematic examination of active shooter events. To sum, the researchers found that events appear to occur more frequently, are generally over in under five minutes and before police arrive on scene, and the events occur most frequently in businesses, followed by schools. Furthermore, civilians can have a direct, powerful impact on how the events end. As such, the researchers believe that training should focus on civilian response in addition to the rigorous training undertaken by law enforcement. ■

LATEST RESEARCH IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The following are excerpts from recent research related to justice and law enforcement and reflect the views and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the organizations for which they work. To access the full reports, please visit the website links at the bottom of each summary.

SAME-SEX INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE IN AUSTRALIA

Alexandra Gannoni and Tracy Cussen

According to the most recent National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) annual report, there have been more than 6,200 homicides in Australia since data collection began in 1989–90, with one in every four cases involving the death of a victim killed by his or her intimate partner.

Of these, the vast majority (approximately 98 per cent) involved partners from opposite-sex relationships, while a small proportion (approximately two per cent) involved partners from same-sex relationships. Same-sex intimate partner homicides are generally aggregated with all other intimate partner homicides for the purpose of broad descriptive analysis of the NHMP database.

Comparatively little international research has been conducted exploring the nature and context of same-sex intimate partner homicides and no research has specifically examined same-sex intimate partner homicides in Australia.

In an attempt to address this gap and to contribute new knowledge to the study of homicide in general, this paper describes the key characteristics of same-sex intimate partner homicide in Australia as recorded in the NHMP and draws together national and international research concerning its associated factors.

Analysis of the NHMP data showed that same-sex intimate partner homicides represented only two per cent of all intimate partner homicides in Australia from 1989–90 to 2009–10 and in many respects, both same-sex and opposite-sex intimate partner homicides shared many similar features and characteristics.

For example, same-sex intimate partner homicide victims died from many of the same causes as opposite-sex intimate partner homicide victims, including stab wounds, beatings, drownings and strangulations. Likewise, key motives (or reasons) for both same-sex and opposite-sex intimate partner homicide incidents included domestic arguments, jealousy and relationship terminations.

Where differences were identified, some tended to reflect gender norms rather than relationship type. For instance, males were overrepresented as offenders in the intimate partner homicides regardless of the homicide type (same-sex or opposite-sex intimate partner homicide). There was also a slightly higher prevalence of mental disorders and a higher level of drug use among same-sex intimate partner homicides, although these differences may only be apparent as a result of the very small number of same-sex intimate partner homicide cases that were able to be identified.

Other differences, however, point to the need for a more nuanced approach to violence prevention among same-sex attracted persons. While drug and alcohol misuse, mental disorders and intimate partner violence are associated with both forms of intimate partner homicide, the wider literature suggests that sexual stigma, discrimination and marginalization may be associated with an increased risk of such issues among same-sex attracted persons.

It's important that homicide investigators, practitioners and researchers improve strategies and data collection instruments to increase the likelihood of identifying and addressing relationship nuances. By improving response and prevention strategies, same-sex intimate partner homicide incidents can be prevented and the overall rate of homicide can be reduced.

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.AIC.GOV.AU

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: HOW PEERS CAN AFFECT RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Barbara Oudekerk, Dara Blachman-Demner and Carrie Mulford

Compared to childhood, adolescence is a period marked by significant changes in the nature and importance of interpersonal relationships. Relationships with friends become more autonomous and central to personal wellbeing and, for the first time, many youth become involved in romantic relationships.

Although the initiation of romantic relationships is a positive and healthy experience for many youth, it's a source of violence and abuse for others. Approximately nine per cent of high school students report being hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year. Teen dating violence rates appear to be even higher among certain populations, such as youth who have history or exposure to violence.

This Research in Brief looks at the research from the perspective of one key emerging theme: peers and the contexts in which peers interact can contribute to their risk for and protection against dating violence.

PEER ROLES IN TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teens' peers have the potential to considerably shape their dating experiences. Teens spend most of their days in school with peers and, in their free time, spend proportionally more time with peers than with parents or any other adults.

The desire to fit in and be liked by peers heightens in adolescence, and teens begin to rely on peers as a primary source of support and guidance. In addition, peer groups often set norms and offer social rewards for dating. As such, peers are likely to have a significant impact on teens' decisions about whether to date, whom to date, and when to break up with romantic partners.

Of particular interest to service providers is that the presence of peers might instigate, elevate or reduce the likelihood of teen dating violence, depending on the situation. For example, if a girl hits a boy in front of his friends, the boy might feel pressure to "save face" and hit her in return. On the other hand, if peers are present when a couple is arguing, the peers might help defuse the situation and prevent the argument from escalating to violence — or peers who

witness or hear about violence occurring also might seek help from an adult.

PEERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS

It's difficult to determine how many teens seek help after violence occurs because researchers often ask different questions about help-seeking and dating abuse. Regardless, one clear message has emerged: many teens do not seek help from anyone after violence has occurred, and those who do seek help most frequently turn to a friend.

Given the importance of peers during adolescence, it's critical to identify important areas for future research. Only through strategically smart research and evaluation can we learn how to prevent and intervene in violent teen romantic relationships and how to promote positive outcomes in romantic relationships.

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.NIJ.GOV

SPIRIT — GIRLS IDENTIFYING REAL LIFE SOLUTIONS

Spirit — Girls Identifying Real Life Solutions is an innovative school-based prevention program for girls from Grades 7 to 9 at risk of delinquency and contact with the criminal justice system. Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) provided funding for the implementation of *Spirit* from September 2008 to August 2011.

The project was implemented by Calgary Family Services in partnership with schools and community partners. *Spirit* was delivered in four Calgary, Alta, junior high schools and assisted 246 girls, aged 11 to 15 years, who had limited resources, difficult personal issues and experienced a high number of risk factors.

The overarching goals of the *Spirit* project were to increase the participants' resiliency so they were less likely to enter or continue risky, negative or criminal behaviours; and help the participants connect or re-connect with their schools, communities, peers, families and positive role models.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Each cohort of participants was part of the program for 30 months, starting in the winter session of Grade 7 (January) and finishing at the end of Grade 9.

The core elements of the programs included the following:

- education and information sessions to increase participants' knowledge of issues and resources related to healthy lifestyles and reduction of risky behaviours
- recreation and volunteer opportunities to demonstrate and practise healthy life skills, improve relationships with peers, increase or maintain involvement in positive activities and increase participants' awareness of leisure opportunities and resources
- mentorship with female role models to increase involvement with positive peer groups, enhance self-esteem and improve school performance
- family support to develop mutually supportive relationships, reduce conflicts and encourage family stability and security
- individual and outreach support and counselling

RESULTS

Overall, *Spirit* participants were positively impacted by the program. Eighty-four per cent of participants graduating from the program had resiliency and developmental strength scores in the "resilient" or "very resilient" range. Thirty-eight per cent had increased their developmental strengths from their baseline scores, and 29 per cent of clients previously considered vulnerable had moved into the resilient category.

External resiliency outcomes showed that participants improved their peer and family relationships, their ability to stay in school, and their ability to avoid risky behaviours. During program duration, none of the participants experienced an early pregnancy, nor had any new criminal charges leading to conviction.

Ninety-one per cent of *Spirit* girls increased their knowledge scores on key topics such as healthy lifestyles, positive sexuality and peer relationships, staying out of trouble with the law, and the effects of substance use/abuse.

The *Spirit* pilot project demonstrated the value and benefit of the program for the Calgary participants. This gender specific, school-based approach focused on girls in early adolescence could be replicated in other schools and communities. ▪

TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.PUBLICSAFETY.GC.CA

"EVERY GUN TELLS A STORY"

ANALYZING THE FORENSICS OF FIREARMS

By Sigrid Forberg

When a firearm is fired, the gun leaves a set of unique markings or impressions on the expelled bullets and casings. To date, no two firearms that leave the exact same markings have been found.

This means that every firearm essentially has its own "fingerprints." And when police compare and identify the bullets and casings they collect at crime scenes with seized guns, it can potentially provide them with the information to link those guns to other crime scenes.

"We have a saying, 'Every gun tells a story'," says Det. Chris O'Brien, a member of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), currently seconded to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)'s Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU). "We want to know the story of that gun: who made it, who sold it, who purchased it? Those stories provide investigators with a wealth of information."

ANOTHER CRIME-FIGHTING TOOL

To test those seized guns, police agencies use ballistics tanks. Projectiles are fired into a water-filled tank. The bullets lose their energy as soon as they touch the water and sink to the bottom and can then be retrieved and analyzed.

Ballistics testing is an important part of every gun investigation. O'Brien says every time a gun is seized and a person is charged with a firearms offence, police are legally required to prove the weapon was in working order.

Insp. Bill Klym, the officer in charge of the PWEU, adds the tests are key in successfully and efficiently solving the crimes they investigate.

"It's another tool in our toolbox," says Klym. "It might not be much on its own, but in combination with the other aspects of investigations, this information gives us further leads as to where the gun may have originated and who may have committed the crime."

Prior to purchasing their own tank, the OPS and PWEU had to send all their testing to the national forensic centre in Toronto, Ont. But the demand at the centre was so heavy that they could wait up to four months for reports they can now do the same day in-house.

When the OPS was looking into getting its own tank eight years ago, O'Brien says they were concerned about the expense of many of the models on the market. O'Brien, who was a member of OPS's Guns and Gangs Unit at the time, says the team approached a local company, Dymech Engineering Inc., to build their own.

Using items off the shelf like pool filters, Dymech worked closely with a few members from Guns and Gangs to design a tank that would meet their needs at a significantly lower cost than most of the other options.

"There's not a huge market for these out there, but our company is project based and we deal with little projects like this often," says Will Saunders from Dymech. "It was mostly figuring out what they need and they haven't been able to stump us yet."

The OPS have even had other police departments visiting, interested in building their own tanks.

FURTHERING CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

Located at the OPS headquarters, the tank is used regularly by O'Brien as well as a few trained firearms examiners from the OPS. They're also working with Dymech to create an automated gun firing device for firearms examiners to use when the safety of a gun might be questionable.

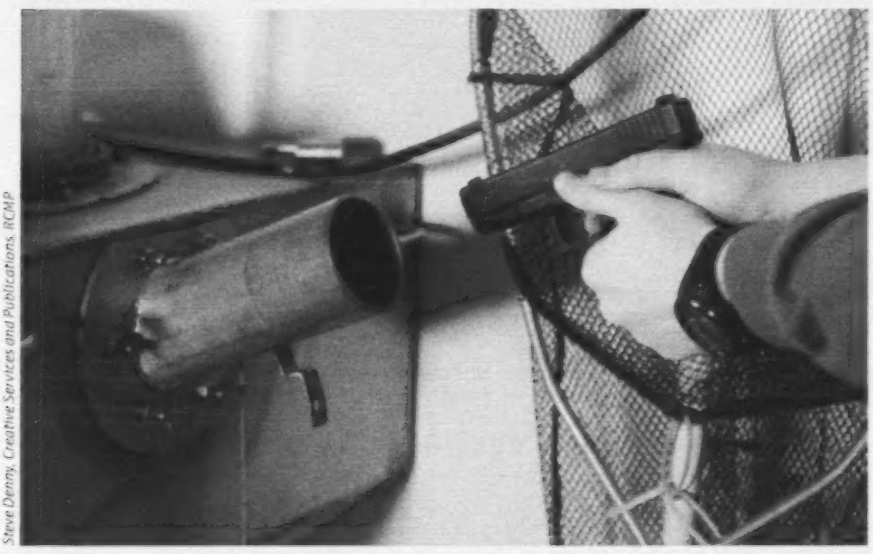
The PWEU has also purchased a tank for their location in North Bay, Ont., and have funding earmarked for another two in different locations around the province.

"Ballistics is the key tool to getting to the bottom of crimes," says Klym. "In cases where a gun turns up at a crime scene, it's a dead end unless a collateral investigation is being carried out to link it to the intelligence we already have."

And O'Brien says through the testing, they've been able to link guns to different crime scenes. Even if it's not a slam dunk in a case, it provides police with greater intelligence of the criminal organizations in their jurisdiction — helping create overall safer communities.

"If I can do something to make sure guns don't fall into the wrong hands and the people that do lawfully own them are being held to a high standard, then in my mind, I'm doing a good service to the citizens of this country, province and city to make the streets safer," says O'Brien. ■

Projectiles fired into the tank lose their energy when they hit the water and sink to the bottom, where they can be retrieved and analyzed.



Steve Denny, Creative Services and Publications, RCMP